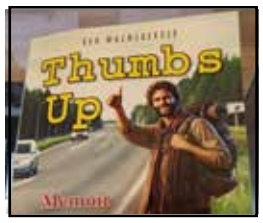
In this issue…



New book by Ken Wachsberger page 6

New Shin-shinim page 13

Pardes Hannah explores "A Good Heart" page 17

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WASHTENAW

JEWISH NEWS

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Group Show at the JCC's Amster Gallery

By Drew Coel, Marketing and Program Associate, Ann Arbor JCC

For the first time in several years, the JCC is delighted to bring a group show back to the Amster Gallery, with the reception taking place on Thursday, September 18, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This exhibit will feature the work of seven talented artists across Southeast Michigan who are Jewish and/or have a connection to the Jewish community. Some are returning to our gallery and some are showing their work here for the first time. Come schmooze and have a nosh while exploring the work of these amazing artists. Pieces will be available for purchase.

The artists are: Talia Abrams — Fluorescent and Non-Fluorescent Aquatic Life; Joan Cohen Jones — Watercolors; Deborah Friedman — Abstract Mixed Media; Julie Garvey — Watercolors; Leonore Gerstein — Acrylic Abstract; Carine Lutz — Photography and Origami; Sara Young — 3D Wood Etching and Engraving. ■

Wood Hamsa by Sara Young

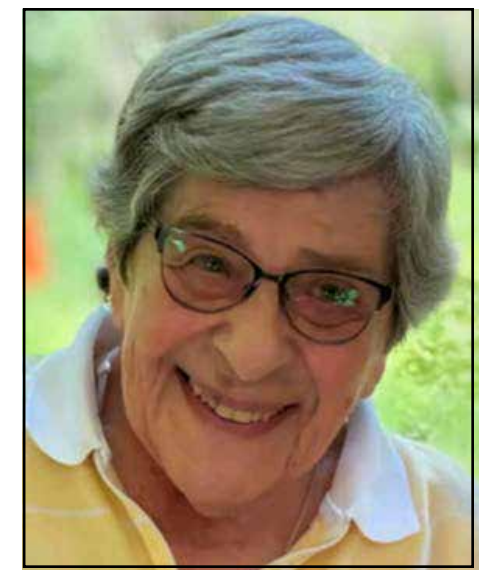
From Roosevelt to resistance: After 105 years, Adele Bayer finds her voice

By Amy Perry, reprinted with permission from Ann Arbor Indivisible

On June 14, millions took to the streets to protest the authoritarian regime of Donald Trump. The message was simple: No Kings.

In Ann Arbor, where over 7,000 gathered to rally and march, Adele Bayer watched a small girl of five or six make a sign with her mother. The mother spelled out a word slowly: N-O. The girl enthusiastically filled the poster board, writing the word "no" over and over. Adele looked on, delighted. She wondered if this was the girl's first protest.

It was hers.



Continues on page 15

JLive: Your new online hub for Jewish Ann Arbor

By Rachel Wall, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

It seems that, in 2025, there should be one easy place online to see all events happening in the greater Ann Arbor Jewish community. Those events should be easily filtered by interest, including social activities, young families, and educational opportunities, or by sponsoring organization.

Enter: JLive.

JLive is the greater Ann Arbor Jewish community's new, free online hub to discover and register for community events. Launched in August, JLive was brought to Ann Arbor by a collaboration of the JCC and the Jewish Federation. It is made possible financially by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Ann Arbor.

The JLive homepage for greater Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor is among the first six Jewish communities across the U.S. and Canada to implement JLive, following cities like Miami, Cincinnati, Montreal, and Detroit.

"We're really excited about the opportunities for connection that will come from JLive," says Eileen Freed, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. "It's an incredible tool that showcases the breadth of what this community has to offer. We hope it will make Jewish Ann Arbor feel even more engaged and connected."

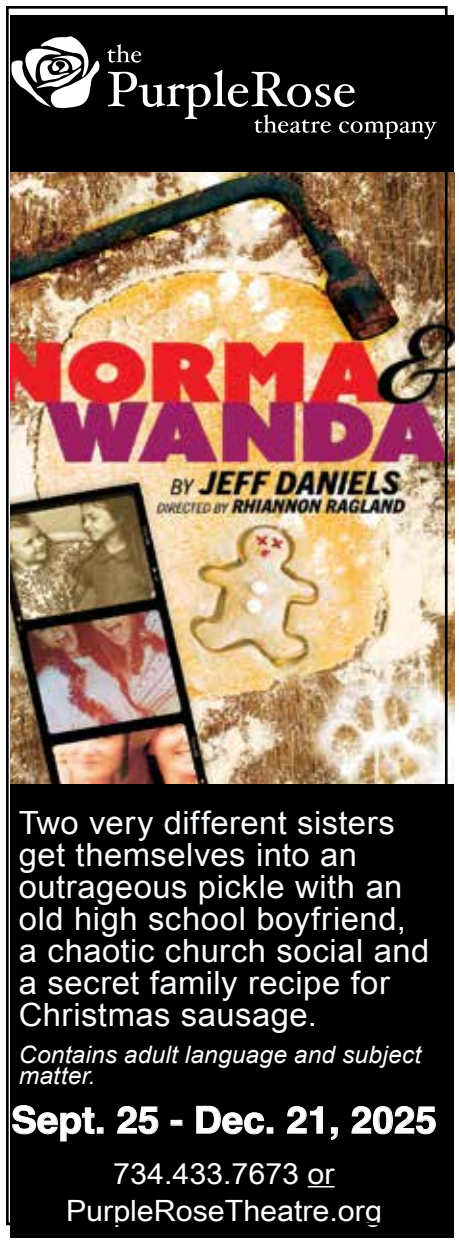
JLive has both app and web browser interfaces to enable registration for events across all Jewish organizations, streamlining the registration and payment processes regardless of what organization is hosting the event. Using JLive is completely free. Users also have the option to create a profile, which enables even easier registrations, as well as more personalized event recommendations while browsing.

In late July, representatives from a variety of local Jewish organizations attended an orientation session at the JCC to learn how to begin posting their events on JLive. Thanks to the Jewish Community Foundation, there is no cost to organizations to use the platform. Any group that hasn't yet joined is encouraged to contact Drew Coel (drewcoel@jccannarbor.org), the JCC's Marketing and Program Associate.

"JLive is for the way people engage with community and with technology in their real lives," says Dave Stone, Executive Director of the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor. "With JLive, you don't need to be a member of a congregation or on a particular email list to find events that fit your interests. It's all right there for you. It's going to change what's possible for our community." ■

Advertisers

Adome Home Health Care Services..17
Alex Milshteyn, Realtor..... 3
Ann Arbor District Library.....23
Ann Arbor Rec and Ed.....16
Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation 15
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.....12
Bank of Ann Arbor..... .16
Beth Israel Congregation.....9, 12
Crosswell Opera House.....6
Frankel Center for Judaic Studies....12
Giraffe Design Build.....28
Hurwitz-Greene Real Estate.....9
Jewish Cultural Society.....16
Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor.....14
Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County.....23
Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.....26, 27
Pam Sjo, The Reinhart Company.....2
Purple Rose Theatre Company.....2
Raoul Wallenberg Institute.....13
R.D. Kleinschmidt.....2
Ron's Glass.....14
Wolverine Tax & Financial.....3
Women of TBE.....16
Zemyck Pottery.....23
Zingerman's Bakehouse.....17



From the editor

Fall is in the air

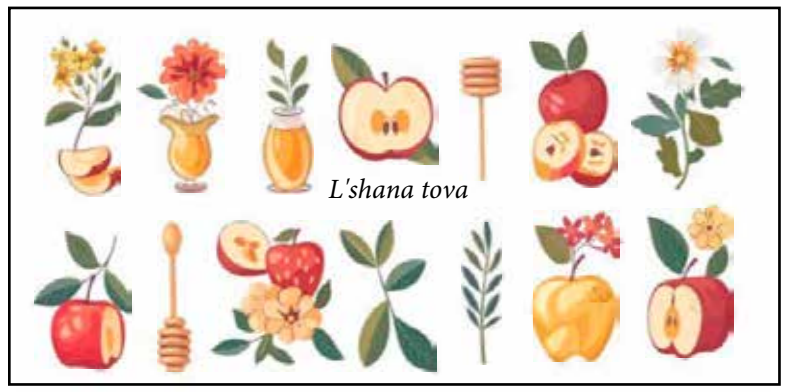
Today is Rosh Hodesh Elul and it was cool last night, a fresh hint of fall in the air. A perfect Shehechiyanu moment, I felt deep gratitude for the changing of the seasons and the cycle of Jewish time that brought me to this particular pre-autumn moment.

I also want to express my gratitude to so many in the Washtenaw community for your attention, helpfulness (and forbearance) to me personally, and your good works in the community.

This year, I think, the WJN has achieved a steadier stride as an independent Jewish communal entity. This achievement is a small shift in the current, within a sea of sadness. Is our current descent into devastating mass violence as reliable as the cycle of the seasons? A terrible thought; unless.

Unless it necessarily heralds a return to the ascendancy of care: breakthroughs in health care, environmental protection, interdependency. Each month I stand in awe of the good works done by people in the Washtenaw Jewish community, works of care and creativity. I have the good fortune to gather them together and report them back to the community. I am grateful for this.

My best wishes to each of you for a year of blessings. L'shana tova. ■



2935 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
(734) 395-4438
www.washtenawjewishnews.org
CKinbergwjneditor@gmail.com

Editor and Publisher
Clare Kinberg

Advertising Manager
Pat Cowan

Design and Layout
Dennis Platte and Janet Rich

Staff Writers
Hannah Davis, Ari Smith, Lonnie Sussman

Contributing Writers
Orit Aviran, Candace Bulkley, Drew Cole, Emily Eisbruch, Amichay Findling, Eileen Freed, Trina Fuller, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Cantor Regina Hayut, Ed Kass, Eva Kubacki, Rabbi Asher Lopatin, Cathy Marshall, Leslie McGraw, Amy Perry, Michael S. Simon, Rachel Wall, Claire Weiner, Elina Zilberberg, Lauren Zinn

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Signed letters to the editor are welcome; they should not exceed 400 words. Letters can be emailed to the editor. Name will be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

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Phone numbers, websites, and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM): 1429 Hill Street, 248-408-3269, annarborminyan.org

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-445-1910, aarecon.org

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC): 2000 Washtenaw Ave, 734-665-9897, bethisrael-aa.org

Chabad House: 715 Hill Street, 734-995-3276, jewmich.com

Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies (EMU): www.emich.edu/jewish-studies/

Frankel Center: 202 S. Thayer St., lsa.umich.edu/judaic/

Jewish Community Center (JCC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 745-971-0990, jccannarbor.org

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-975-9872, jewishculturalsociety.org

Jewish Family Services (JFS): 2245 South State Street, 734-769-0209, jfsannarbor.org

Jewish Federation: 2939 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-677-0100, jewishannarbor.org

Pardes Hannah: 2010 Washtenaw Ave, 734-761-5324, pardeshannah.org

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE): 2309 Packard Road, 734-665-4744, templebethemeth.org

UM Hillel: 1429 Hill Street 734-769-0500, michiganhillel.org

Irene Butter Fund entering second funding cycle

By Cantor Regina Hayut

The great Rabbi Hillel said (Pirkei Avot 2:5): "In a place where there is no humanity, strive to be human."

This important lesson has been the life's work of another great teacher and humanitarian, Irene Butter. She has lived and exuded that teaching her entire life, much of which has rubbed off on the Generations After Group of Temple Beth Emeth, direct descendants of Holocaust survivors who have worked hard to advance that lesson into the future by creating the Irene Butter Fund for Holocaust and Human Rights Education.

It is always difficult for teachers to procure enough resources (even in resource-rich communities like Ann Arbor) to create programming that they dream would benefit their students. In this generation, a time in our history when educational norms are being questioned and even shattered, the Irene Butter Fund seeks to support K–12 teachers and other educators in community or religious organizations about times in world history when humanity was not "being human." The fund was created to help schools and organizations in Washtenaw County to fulfill their educational objectives in assuring that students of all ages learn thoughtfully and deeply about the human costs of genocide and human rights abuses. The only chance our world has to bring an end to such behaviors is through education.

To that end, the Irene Butter Fund accepted grant applications for the first time back in March and awarded funding for eight wonderful educational projects. Now, the cycle begins again with grant submissions due in November. Decisions for the second funding cycle will occur in mid-December, just in time for celebration of Irene's 95th birthday.

To be exact, a letter of intent is requested by October 15; grant applications due on or before November 1 to the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Hereafter, applications will only be solicited and reviewed once a year.

Funded projects from our first cycle ranged from purchasing new books for teaching about the Holocaust to experiential opportunities, including class trips to The Zekelman Holocaust Center and guest speakers (Irene Butter herself), all the way through to acknowledging the cruelty and human rights abuses of the Native American population right in our own state of Michigan.

The awardees from the inaugural funding cycle were made to educators from the following institutions: Beach Middle School in Chelsea; Dexter High School; Manchester Junior/Senior High School; and, in Ann Arbor, Huron High School; Skyline High School; Community High; Emerson School; and Temple Beth Emeth Terri A. Ginsburg Hebrew and Religious School.

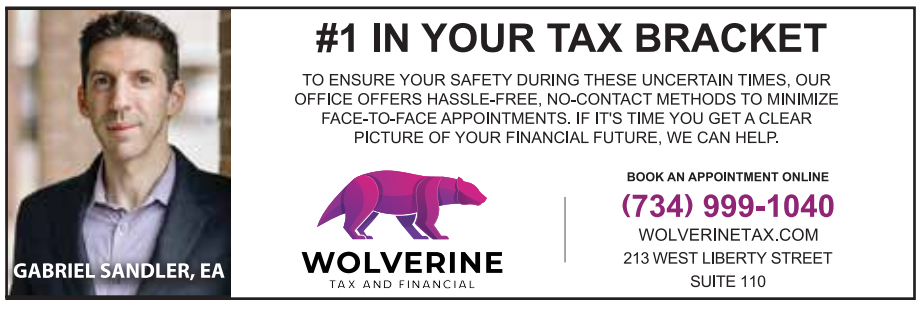
All wrote compelling requests for funding and our advisory committee enthusiastically offered them support.

The inaugural cycle was exciting and unusual. While there is no guarantee that all future applicants will receive funding, it is the goal of the Irene Butter Fund to offer as much financial support to as many teachers and educators for projects impacting prospective students.

We look forward to receiving applications for the November funding cycle.

Please check out information about our grant application on the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's website. Click on the tab "Our Community" and then on "Apply for a Grant."

https://www.jewishannarbor.org/grants/apply-irene-butter-fund-for-holocaust-and-human-rights-education/ ■



High Holiday Schedule

Washtenaw High Holiday Service Schedules 2025/5786				
ROSH HASHANAH		Monday Erev 9/22	Tuesday 9/23	Wednesday 2nd Day 9/24
AA Reconstructionist Congregation				
Erev Rosh Hashanah		7:30 p.m.		
Morning Service			9:30 a.m.	
Family Service			10:30 a.m.	
Tashlich (Gallup Park, Geddes Entrance)			4 p.m.	
Beth Israel Congregation				
S'lichot	8:30 p.m.			
Erev Rosh HaShanah and Dessert Program		8 p.m.		
Morning service			8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
Childcare and Youth Programs			10 a.m.	10 a.m.
Tashlich and Mincha			4 p.m	.
Maariv Minyan (Zoom only)			7 p.m.	
Chabad House				
Afternoon/Evening Services		7:15 p.m.		
Morning Service			9:45 a.m.	
Evening Service			7:30 p.m.	
Morning Service Day 2				9:45 a.m.
Sounding of the Shofar				Noon.
Jewish Cultural Society.				
Rosh Hashanah at the JCC		7 p.m.		
Tashlich (at Gallup Park)			4 p.m.	
Temple Beth Emeth				
S'lichot	8 p.m.			
Erev Rosh Hashana Service		8 p.m.		
Family Service			8:30 a.m.	
Pre– Reader (5 and below and parents)			8:30 a.m.	
Highlights of the Service			10 a.m.	
Morning Service			11:15 a.m.	
Tashlich at Furstenberg Nature Area			3:15 p.m.	
Reverse Tashlich at Gallop Park			3:30 p.m.	
Kever Avot Arbor Crest Sunday Sept 28		11 a.m.		
Kever Avot Washtenong Mem Park Sept 28		2 p.m.		

YOM KIPPUR	Wednesday 10/1	Thursday 10/2
AA Reconstructionist Congregation		
Kol Nidre	6:30 p.m.	
Yom Kippur Morning		10 a.m.
Family Service		10:30 a.m.
Afternoon workshops 2 sessions		1:45 to 3:30 and 3:45 to 4:25 p.m.
Yizkor		5 to 6 p.m.
Neilah		6:45 p.m.
Break the fast		~7:45
Beth Israel Congregation		
Kol Nidre	7 p.m.	
Teen Discussion	7 p.m.	
Meditation Opportunity	~9 p.m.	
Morning service		8:30 a.m.
Childcare and Youth Programs		10 a.m.
Yom Kippur Group Discussion		4 p.m.
Mincha/Neila		5:30 p.m.
Break-the-fast		8 p.m.
Chabad House		
Kol Nidrei	7 p.m.	
Morning Services		9:45 a.m.
Afternoon/Evening Service		5:30 p.m.
Jewish Cultural Society		
Kol Nidre at the JCC	7 p.m.	
Yom Kippur at the JCC		2 p.m.
Break– the– Fast Potluck at the JCC		6 p.m.
Temple Beth Emeth		
Kol Nidre	8 p.m.	
Pre– Reader (5 and below and parents)		8:30 a.m.
Family Service		8:30 a.m.
Yom Kippur Highlights		10 a.m.
Morning Service		11: 15 a.m.
Study Session with Rabbi Whinston		3 p.m.
Meditation Music /Deb and Ralph Katz		4 p.m.
Yizkor Followed by Neilah		4:30 p.m.
WTBE Break-the-fast		7:30 p.m.

KlezMitten Michigan's annual Klezmer Festival is here

Get ready for an afternoon of vibrant Klezmer music and dancing at the International Institute in Midtown Detroit on Sunday, September 7. The concert promises to be a lively celebration of traditional and contemporary Klezmer music, showcasing the rich Yiddish heritage and dynamic dance rhythms. This year the festival has expanded from four to seven groups!. This exciting event will feature performances by Michigan's finest Klezmer ensembles including Lansing's Heartland Klezmorim; two groups from Ann Arbor, Klezmophonic and Schmaltz; Detroit's Klezmer Academy, 7Layers, and Klezundheit; and Chutzpah from Grand Rapids.

Tickets are available https://klezundheit.ludus.com/index.php or QR code. Get yours now before we sell out!

New this year is the option to purchase access to half of the event (or a discount for the whole day) as well as special VIP tickets that allow an obstructed view in front of the dance floor.

Food will be available at this event provided by Small World Kitchen.

For media inquiries, please contact: Alan Posner, Alfposner@gmail.com ■

Apples & Honey: Bigger and Better than Ever!

By Eva Kubacki

Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will celebrate the upcoming new year with its annual Apples & Honey event, this year titled "Bigger and Better than Ever." The event will be on Sunday, September 14, from 2 to 5 p.m.

This year's sponsors of Apples and Honey are Camp Tavor, Camp Young Judea, Hebrew Day School, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw Country, and Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Their generosity and assistance has helped us keep Apples and Honey free of charge this year. Apples and Honey has been a staple celebration of the Ann Arbor Jewish community for years. This year is no exception, with all of the classic activities and expanding into tons of exciting new programming.

One such new activity will be Touch-a-Truck, where kids can touch, climb in, and explore a fire truck, a police car, and an ambulance. For crafty community members, there will be an interactive Community Weaving Project, where participants can add to a large cloth tapestry that will be on display at the JCC when finished. Participation in this is free, but the JCC is collecting old rags and heavily worn-out clothing to turn into weaving materials.

Curious about upcoming Fall programming at the JCC? You can learn all about it at Apples and Honey and even see the activities in action. Some of the newer upcoming programs include Dungeons and Dragons, Book Club, Self Defense, Fiber Arts, youth Lacrosse with Coach Dakota, and youth Dance Classes with professional instructor Sarah Dennis. The JCC looks forward to sharing all these programs and more at Apples and Honey on September 14.

For those looking to participate in a quieter, indoor space, there will be two trauma-informed art workshops in the JCC lounges. These activities will be free of charge and for adults.

Another new feature of Apples and Honey 2025/5786 is food and drink vendors. including Roos Roast (coffee and drinks), Kona Ice (shaved ice), and Once-Upon a Grill (Kathi rolls). There will also be a farm stand selling food and other homemade goods. They will even bring some of their goats to pet! In keeping with tradition, the Early Childcare Center will be selling goods from the Bake Station, including delicious Challot, Babkas, Honey Cakes, and more.

In addition to food, there will be other items for sale from community members and partners. Schuler's Books will have a stand, where you can purchase new books of all genres for all ages. A small group of local jewelers and artists will be selling Judaica, perfect to celebrate the new year!

JCC also announces the release of a Community Calendar, a community-wide initiative to make and sell a calendar that includes every Ann Arbor Jewish organizations' major events.

This calendar will be for sale at Apples and Honey and includes Hebrew and Gregorian dates. It will also feature art from community artists of all ages who have volunteered to submit their work. This project hopes to increase intracommunity support and connection and we look forward to sharing it with you.

Apples and Honey will also have all of the classic activities, including face painting, a photo booth, large board games, and community partner tables.

There is no cost to attend this event. However, the JCC requires that attendees register in advance for planning purposes. Registration is now open on JLive or you can contact the JCC at (734) 971-0990 to register yourself or your family. If you are able, you may donate to the event when you register on JLive to keep events like this free or low cost. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated! ■

Beth Israel hires new youth programming coordinator

Allie Abrams, Beth Israel's new Youth Programming Coordinator, is a rising junior at the University of Michigan studying Organizational Studies with a concentration in human capital and positive leadership

with a minor in Judaic Studies. When she is not in class, she loves trying new restaurants, walking in the arb, and hanging out with friends. After serving as Michigan BBYO's Regional President, she has become very active in Jewish life on campus and spent her last summer interning at a Jewish nonprofit in Israel. ■

Exploring the impact of Jewish inter-generation trauma: A pilot peacebuilding dialogue project

Members of the Jewish community are invited to participate in a dialogue session to explore the impact of Jewish inter-generational trauma, both personally and collectively. A sense of personal agency, personal safety, and individual and collective impact shape our responses to conflict and polarization. We experience and witness so many conflicting feelings, often concurrently — be that fear, anger, outrage, nostalgia, grief, loneliness, guilt, compassion, or acceptance.

A basic principle of making peace is that we must first make peace with our internal conflicts so that we can then more skillfully embrace differences and navigate the growing complexity that encompasses life today.

This is a lightly structured facilitated dialogue in small groups that will create a safe container to explore the impact of Jewish inter-generational trauma personally and collectively. All are welcome as a diversity of perspectives enriches any dialogue and furthers learning and understanding. Participants do not need to be affiliated with a congregation. This is a one-time commitment although if there is interest in having additional dialogues, future sessions will be arranged.

The facilitators are Manya Arond-Thomas, Debbie Field, and Laurie White. While all three are members of the Zeitouna dialogue group (a group of Jewish and Palestinian women meeting continuously since 2002), this Peacebuilding Dialogue is an independent project based on their interest in promoting the use of dialogue to further understanding and build bridges around topics and issues that are often difficult to discuss.

Manya Arond-Thomas, M.D., is a psychiatrist and coach, Dialogue practitioner and facilitator, and Board member of the Global Dialogue Collective. Debbie Field, PhD, is a lecturer of Russian history at the University of Michigan and an experienced Dialogue facilitator. Laurie White is a family therapist specialized in trauma work, a filmmaker, and an experienced Dialogue facilitator.

This free session will be Sunday, September 14, 3 to 5 p.m.

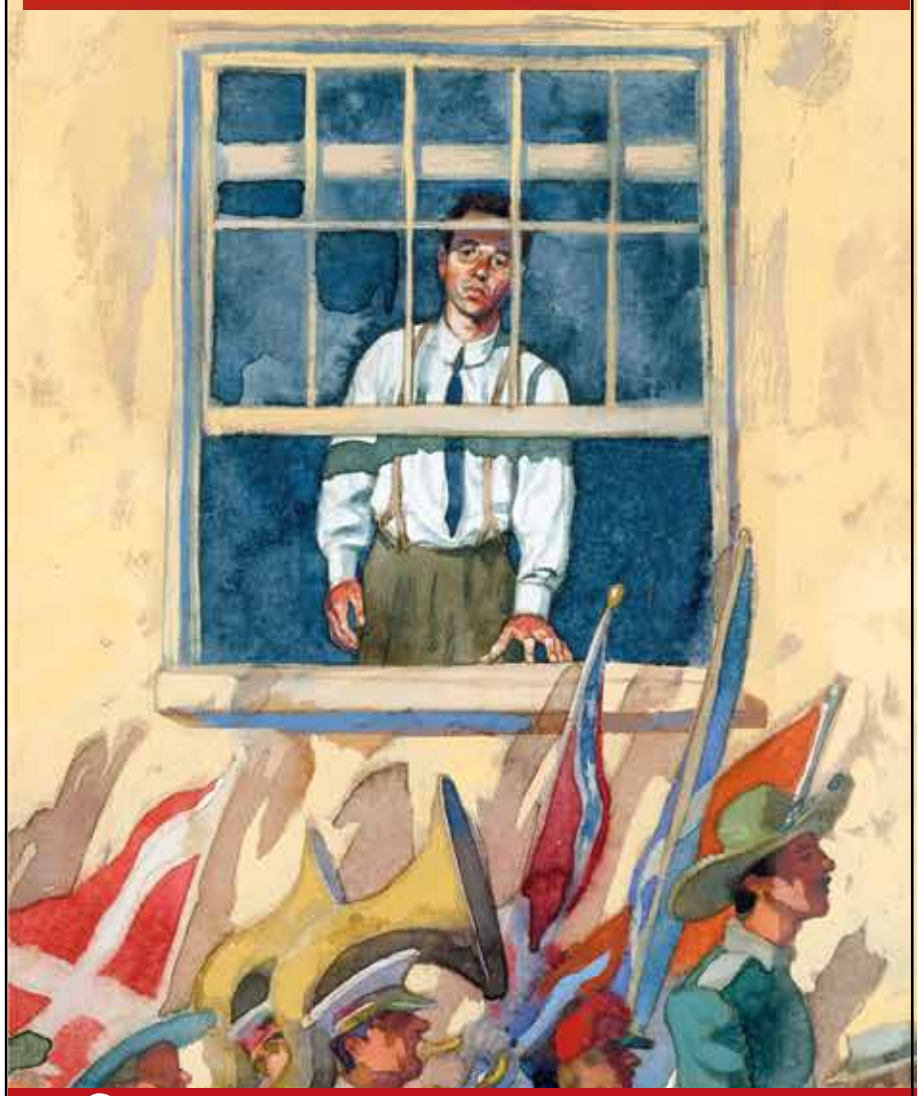
Please register by email to globalmagic1@gmail.com no later than September 7. Space limited to 30 people. Location and further details will be emailed upon registration. ■

THE CROSWELL

PARADE

SEPTEMBER 12 - SEPTEMBER 21

Based on a true story, *Parade* follows a young Jewish couple, Leo and Lucille Frank, as they navigate life in 1913 Georgia. When Leo is accused of murdering a young girl, the couple must face prejudice, scrutiny, and injustice head on. Set against the backdrop of the annual Confederate Memorial Day parade, the musical highlights the deep-seated racism and antisemitism prevalent in the south at that time. Through it all, Leo and Lucille must confront issues with faith, devotion to each other, and love amidst adversity.



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Books

Youth in charge

By Ari Smith

At the July 17 book launch for Ann Arbor resident Ken Wachsberger's memoir *Thumbs Up: Memoir of a Joyful Organizer,* Wachsberger lived up to the title of his newest book, chatting with each attendee with such excitement that it was difficult to tell who he'd already known beforehand. Wachsberger is a well-known writing coach and editor. His four-volume collection, *Voices from the Underground*, is an invaluable resource of the history of the 1960s and 1970s anti-war movement as lived on the ground (and underground). His new memoir, though, is his most personal writing to date.

Ken Wachsberger

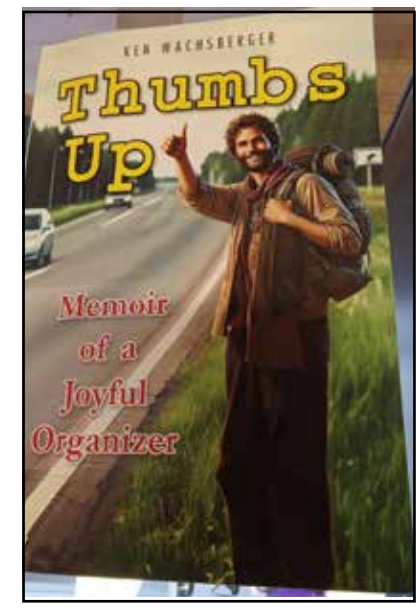
Instead of reading excerpts from his new memoir, Wachsberger nearly bounced across the stage as he told stories from his long life and the myriad ways he was involved with the Yippies and Zippies (the names for members of the Youth International Party and Zeitgeist International Party, the latter a split-off from YIP), the anti-war movement and the underground press, to organizing tenant and labor unions, and finally to his work naming Ann Arbor's Temple Beth Emeth as a sanctuary for refugees facing deportation.

All of this could simply be a nostalgic look back on the past work of an older activist, but this was not a self-congratulation. "My time is done, realistically speaking," Wachsberger says. "Youth are in charge." But there's still plenty to learn from Wachsberger's experience.

So often we are taught to see civil rights movements as a closed bubble: their work complete, the activists vanish into the woodwork and the movement ends. New pushes for civil rights, even on the same subject, are looked at as completely separate from their predecessors. Contemporary activists are told that their work would be disdained by the heroes of the 60s and 70s, even as their student teach-ins are dispersed and attendees arrested. There are similarities, though, to when, for instance, Wachsberger was at a Kent State solidarity teach-in at Michigan State University in 1970, which helped set him on his path in the first place.

The importance of cross-generational involvement in civil rights organizing is evident in Wachsberger's chapter on his time in Miami Beach, as Zippies came to town ahead of the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, scheduled in July and August of 1972, respectively. The anti-war activists needed a park to gather, eat, and sleep in, but the right-wing had already started frightening the local senior citizens (the average age of Miami Beach permanent residents was 65 at the time) with the violence that had broken out at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Zippie organizers, led by Wachsberger and Joyce Hodges, embarked on an outreach plan to meet with local residents, many of whom were Jewish, and humanize the activists.

"We realized that most of these old people had probably never met a hippie other than through the media, let alone touched one," Wachsberger writes in his book, "so we visited the parks where they spent their afternoons and the free lunch programs where many of them ate their only meal of the day. We sang songs, spoke, and passed out leaflets telling who we were and why we were there. Meanwhile, we petitioned them for signatures to demand that city council give us a campsite." This young-old coalition resulted in a shared space for both the residents and activists in Flamingo Park, and culminated in a "Wedding of the Generations," where the youth and elderly were joined in a symbolic ceremony officiated by Jewish poet Allen Ginsberg, who acted as "rabbi." The same community that was told to fear these young hippies then sheltered them as they fled from the tear gas released during the protests at the DNC.



A common refrain today is a sense of hopelessness. Things are so overwhelming and dark in our society — how can we maintain our urgency, our dedication, our strength, against such tall odds? When asked as much, Wachsberger begins with a quip, saying, "I think I might be an idiot." After the laughter fades, he turns to the words of Stew Albert, cofounder of the Yippies, who said "We can't lose — we're having too much fun!" It's a lot easier to not laugh, Wachsberger tells his audience. But you have to hold onto that laughter, even go to bed laughing, in order to remember why it's important to do this work in the first place. Even in the worst of it, you have to find reasons for joy. Wachsberger's memoir can teach us about his methods, as well as helping us with our laughter. ■

Washtenaw County launches new Black-Jewish coalition

By Rabbi Asher Lopatin, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

With the help of community leaders from the Black and Jewish communities, and with the inspiration of the Black-Jewish coalitions in Washtenaw County from the 1990s, a new Washtenaw Black-Jewish Coalition has been formed with 20 charter members (committee still in formation).

The charter members include individual leaders from organizations like the NAACP of Ann Arbor, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and its JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Committee), and The Network: Jewish People of Color of Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County. Religious leaders come from Metropolitan Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, Mount Olive Church of God in Christ, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, and the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. Also involved are public figures like former State Representative Ronnie Peterson and Washtenaw County's Racial Equity Officer, Derrick Jackson.

Nancy Margolis accepting the annual Pillar Award at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Main Event in November 2024.

The formation of this coalition has been spearheaded in large part by Jewish Ann Arborite Nancy Margolis, a past president of the Jewish Federation and former Executive Director of both the Federation and the JCC. Margolis was instrumental in the creation of the previous iteration of this coalition over 30 years ago, and she has worked hard to bring it and its important work back. Earlier this year, Margolis and the JCRC successfully revived the Ann Arbor area Black-Jewish Freedom Seder, which drew nearly 100 participants from the Black and Jewish communities and helped lay the groundwork for the establishment of the current coalition.

Rabbi Asher Lopatin and Pastor Carnel Richardson address the crowd at the Black-Jewish Freedom Seder at the JCC in March 2025.

The missions of the newly established Coalition are:

- **Speak out and oppose racism, antisemitism, and other forms of ethnic-based hatred by being action — and solution — driven.**
- **Promote solidarity between Black and Jewish communities in all their diversity.**
- **While we will not necessarily agree on all issues, we will strive to identify and implement educational and social action advocacy initiatives, focused on Washtenaw County, that serve the causes and values of the Black and Jewish communities. Our focus is on Washtenaw County, but we remain cognizant of broader issues in our state and nation.**
- **Provide a forum for "difficult conversations" on issues where the Black and Jewish communities might have misunderstandings of each other, challenging perceptions of each other, or different visions for moving forward.**
- **Develop programming aimed at younger community members in order to identify and cultivate future leaders of the organization.**

The first official event of the coalition was held in late August and featured a bus tour of Washtenaw County's Underground Railroad sites in conjunction with a visit to the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County. The event surpassed bus capacity and was a meaningful day of learning and togetherness for all who attended.

Future events in the works include a historical tour of Jewish sites in the Ann Arbor area in coordination with the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, as well as a town hall meeting bringing Jewish and Black communities together at the Metropolitan Memorial Missionary Baptist Church in Ypsilanti.

The Black and Jewish communities have a great deal to contribute to each other, and, together, have so much to contribute to the broader communities of Washtenaw County. The Coalition looks forward to being an important force of unity, advocacy, and understanding in the great matrix of Washtenaw County.

For more information on the Coalition and how to get involved, please contact asher@jewishannarbor.org.

Rabbi Asher Lopatin is the Director of Community Relations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. ■

Mitch Albom to headline Federation's Main Event

By Rachel Wall, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is thrilled to announce that bestselling author, philanthropist, sportscaster, and Michigander Mitch Albom will headline this year's Main Event taking place on Monday, November 10, 2025. The event will take place in person in Ann Arbor. For security purposes, the precise location of the event will only be shared upon registration.

Bringing the community together is a primary goal of the Main Event, and with the support of the 2025 Planning Committee, the event will do just that. This year's planning committee includes a passionate and diverse team of volunteers including Carrie Bank, Galit Dunietz, Jack Fuchsman, Heidi and Alon Kahana, and Robyn Schmier.

Mitch Albom is an internationally renowned bestselling author, journalist, and devout philanthropist. His books include the #1 bestselling memoir of all time, *Tuesdays with Morrie.* Much like his books and presentations on stage, his nationally syndicated column at *Detroit Free Press* offers accessible cultural commentary that invites readers to reflect on their own lives, values, and the broader human experience.

Albom is the founder of SAY Detroit, an umbrella organization that is home to nine charities dedicated to improving the lives of Detroit's underserved population. He also founded and operates the Have Faith Haiti orphanage in Port Au Prince, Haiti, which he has visited every month since 2010 without exception.

Albom's other bestselling books include *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and its sequel, *The Next Person You Meet in Heaven. Tuesdays with Morrie,* written to cover his dying professor's medical bills, spent four years on the NYT Best Seller List and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2022. In 2020, he wrote *Human Touch,* a weekly serial written and published online which raised nearly $1 million for pandemic relief. His most recent novel, *The Little Liar,* told against the backdrop of the Holocaust, delves into the value of truth and the harm born from the lies we tell.

Albom's next novel is a love story titled *Twice.* It will be available on October 7, 2025. Copies will be available for purchase and signing at the Main Event.

With over 20 years on ESPN, and through his work at the *Detroit Free Press* and as a panelist on The Sports Reporters podcast, Albom has been named the #1 Sports Columnist in the Nation by the Associated Press Sports Editors (APSE) 13 times. He was inducted into both the National Sports Media Association's Hall of Fame and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. Albom hosts two radio shows on WJR-AM.

Mitch Albom

In addition to its aim as a community-building program, the Main Event is the widest-reaching annual fundraising event of the Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign. The Annual Community Campaign provides significant unrestricted funds to Federation's communal partners in Ann Arbor, Israel, and around the world. The Campaign also supports community-wide initiatives of the Federation, such as coordinating security needs across organizations and the Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of greater Ann Arbor. Main Event attendees will be asked to support the community with a gift or pledge to the 2026 Annual Community Campaign, which began September 1, 2025. Last year's Main Event featuring NYT columnist David Brooks saw a decade-high 450 attendees and raised $230,000.

For details and tickets to this year's Main Event, visit JewishAnnArbor.org/Events or call (734) 677-0100. ■

Jewish Agency 101: Where Ann Arbor's dollars go

By Eileen Freed, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

In these troubled times, when there are many questions and concerns about the actions of the current Israeli government, questions also arise around the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Israel/Overseas allocations from the Annual Community Campaign.

"We hear from donors who do not want their gifts to be spent in support of governmental policies with which they do not agree," says Federation's Communications and Development Director Rachel Wall. "Ann Arborites also tell us they don't want their donations to be used to fund projects in occupied territories."

Since 2002, the Ann Arbor Jewish Federation has been a pioneer in allocating funds to projects and initiatives in Israel and globally that reflect the local community's values, and "we are proud of the impact we have had," says Wall.

Historically, Federations in communities across North America have sent their overseas allocations to a collective body. This body has changed names and organizational structures over the years; today, the existing network of Federations is part of Jewish Federations of North America. The greater Ann Arbor Federation, in partnership with Federations across the continent, continues to contribute collectively to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the Jewish Agency for Israel, and World ORT. In addition, the local Federation has chosen to make elective allocations directly to Israeli NGOs doing important work related to its key priorities:

Promoting religious pluralism,

Fostering Jewish/Arab understanding and cooperation,

Assisting Israel's minority and disadvantaged populations,

Supporting environmental efforts,

Aiding Jews in need in Israel and around the world, and

Strengthening Ann Arbor's relationship with its partnership community in Moshav Nahalal and in the Central Galilee Partnership region.

"We are proud of our long record of supporting organizations that work towards building a strong shared civil society and address the needs of those in greatest need," says Federation's Israel and Overseas Programs Manager Amichay Findling. "We are confident in sharing that no community campaign funds are spent on projects in the occupied territories, nor in support of governmental activities."

This month, the Federation shares some information about the Jewish Agency, which it funds through both its collective allocations and elective funding for specific Jewish Agency initiatives. In the future editions of the WJN, you'll be able to learn about the JDC and World ORT, as well as Federation's targeted elective allocations.

Jewish Agency for Israel

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) is one of the more misunderstood organizations the Federation supports because it once served as the Jewish pre-state "government" in mandate Palestine. It continued to serve as a quasi-governmental bureaucracy for many years. However, JAFI is not your grandfather's Jewish Agency. Its mission is to act "collectively to strengthen Israel and the Jewish people worldwide — by advancing aliyah as a core value, deepening connections between our global Jewish family, supporting the resilience and security of global Jewish communities, and encouraging every Jewish person to engage with Israel."

Federation CEO Eileen Freed visited the Youth Futures branch in Nazareth/Nof HaGalil, located within Ann Arbor's Partnership Region, in summer 2024.

Advancing aliyah

What many people don't realize is that advancing Aliyah — immigration to Israel — often includes both public and behind-the-scenes rescues of Jews in danger – from Ukrainian Jews fleeing Russian invasion to covert operations helping Jews in Yemen and Iran escape to Israel. Living in Israel continues to be an aim for Jews around the world for ideological reasons and/or to flee rampant antisemitism, and the Jewish Agency is there to help.

Connections

The Jewish Agency refers to their work deepening connections as creating "living bridges" between Israel and the diaspora. Many of the programs that foster these connections and a more nuanced and complex understanding of Israeli society exist in the greater Ann Arbor community. In August, the greater Ann Arbor community welcomed the second pair of ShinShinim to town. These Israeli young adults spend a year of service (shnat sherut) here, bringing with them Israeli art, culture, and connection. Departing ShinShinim, Danielle and Lahav, touched the hearts and minds of people from across the religious and political spectrum and left a lasting legacy of connection. You can learn more about the program elsewhere in this edition of the WJN. Likewise, the Israel Fellow at UM Hillel comes through the Jewish Agency to offer Israel-related programs and connections for the campus community.

Through the Jewish Agency, Ann Arbor has developed its years-long partnership with Moshav Nahalal, hosted summer camp emissaries (shlichim), and sent Ann Arbor area children on meaningful Israel gap year and semester experiences through Masa Israel Journey supported programs.

Security & Resilience

Another aspect of JAFI's work is supporting the resilience and security of communities in Israel and around the world. Just last year, the Jewish Agency, through its Security Assistance Fund, invested over $5.5 million in strengthening the security and preparedness of Jewish communities in 43 countries around the world. This fund, which was initially established in 2012, has enabled communities to implement resilience training and enhanced security measures such as security cameras, armored doors, and more. These security enhancements have saved actual lives, most notably during a 2019 shooting at a synagogue in Halle, Germany.

In addition, thanks to its existing presence on the ground in over 65 countries worldwide, JAFI is able to provide immediate material, logistical, and psychological support in the wake of major upheaval, such

Continues on page 24

Claire Weiner

Between Stimulus and Response

"Between stimulus and response, there is a space."
Victor Frankl, Holocaust Survivor

We who are descended from Abraham,
Moses, and Miriam, have been expelled,
walled in, shunted from place to place and
turned to ash in evil's most Final Solution.

We finally found an imperfectly safe place,
on a thin wedge of land doomed from the
start because of Balfour, the British and
the way everyone concerned disregarded
the space between stimulus and response.

Wasn't there a way for everyone?
Oh please, whoever your god, there must
have been a way to plant everyone's
tomatoes, oranges, and to tend everyone's goats.

Wasn't there a way for everyone?
Oh please, whoever your god, there must
have been a way for everyone to have a real
house with real walls and a real roof.

We who have tried to stay safe
by making too many others unsafe,
are again, mired in other people's rock
bottom instincts: assault weapons in
Pittsburgh, goosestepping in Charlottesville,
stabbings, arson, kidnappings in the hush
of night, armed guards and police patrol at
our synagogue.

Need I go on?

There is much space between stimulus and
response. If I, or my children, or my children's
children are the stimulus, what is the response?

Advanced Intro to Judaism

"Religious School for Adults"

DO ANY OF THESE DESCRIBE YOU?

- Didn't go to Religious School and want to know more?
- Went to Religious School but want the non-kid version?
- Have Jews in the family and want to know more?
- Know some of the "how" of Judaism, but not sure of the "why?"
- Feels like Judaism might fit you. and want to know more?
- Judaism has fit you for a while but never made it official?
- Jewish but don't yet "get" prayer, Torah, Talmud, God etc....

... and want to know more?

This year, Rabbi Caine is opening his popular "Intro to Judaism" course to Jews and the Jew-curious alike. This biweekly course is for adults who are looking to learn anew or deepen their knowledge of the history, meanings, theologies, and practices of Judaism. What does it mean to read the Torah as an adult, develop a relationship with God and Jewish practices as an adult, see the world through a Jewish lens? Join us for...

a biweekly Sunday class at Beth Israel - go to bethisrael-aa.org/intro_to_judaism to learn more

Rabbi Caine was educated at Princeton, Harvard, & Stanford universities. He has led Beth Israel Congregation since 2018.

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"Jews and Media" 2025 fellows at Frankel Institute

In the current academic year, the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies is focusing on the theme of "Jews and Media" under the leadership of head fellows Shachar Pinsker (University of Michigan) and Olga Gershenson (University of Massachusetts Amherst). This theme year will explore the intersection of Jewish and Media Studies and the relationships between Jews,

Jewishness, Judaism, and media, both old and new.

The fellows will seek to understand the roles Jews have played in the production, distribution, and consumption of media throughout history, as well as to study the representation of Jews in various media, both traditional and digital. By including a wide range of media, the cohort aim to examine the dynamic relationship between Jews and media, their impact on Jewish/non-Jewish relations, and their role in shaping concepts of Jewishness globally. They are interested in the evolving boundaries of religious traditions, ideas of belonging, migration, nationalism, capitalism, race, gender, and the transformation of Israel and the diaspora.

The 2025–2026 Frankel Fellows and their fields of research are:

Shachar Pinsker (Co-Head Fellow), University of Michigan, "Below the Line: Feuilletons, Jews, and Media"

Olga Gershenson (Co-Head Fellow), University of Massachusetts Amherst, "Judaism and Film"

Nadya Bair, Hamilton College, "Myth Maker: Cornell Capa and the Reinvention of Documentary at the International Center of Photography (ICP)"

Eitan Bar-Yosef, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, "Israeli Educational Television, 1966–1982: Broadcasting Israel in Transition"

Ayelet Brinn, Hartford University, "World War I, The Red Scare, and the Censorship of the American Yiddish Press"

Gilad Halpern, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, "Dateline Jerusalem"

Matthew Handelman, Michigan State University, "The Invention of Cultural Politics: German-Jewish Intellectuals in the Age of Mass Media"

Erica Lehrer, Concordia University, Montreal, "'Post-Jewish' Objects and Mnemonic Mediation in Contemporary Poland"

Julian Levinson, University of Michigan, "Mediating Jewish Comedy"

Anna Narinskaya, author, curator, filmmaker, and activist, "Jewishness in Soviet media (1960s–1980s)"

Tamar Sella, University of North Texas, "Unsettled Sounds: The Critical Frame of Arab Jewish Musical Memory"

Uri Schreter, Harvard University, "Reverberations: Jewish Music in the LP Era"

Sigal Yona, Ghent University, "The Longue Durée of the Eden Cinema in Tel Aviv"

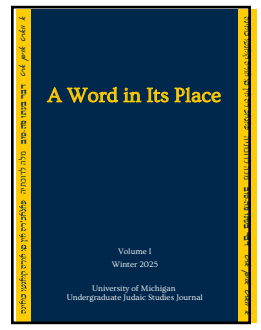
Anat Zeltser, Sapir College, "The History of Jewish/Israeli images through the Herzliya Studios" ■

"A Word in Its Place," wise words and a new journal

Undergraduate Judaic Studies students have announced a new journal, titled

A Word in Its Place. The idea for the journal came about early in the 2024–2025 academic year when Ari Leflein, a student researcher on University of Michigan's Inclusive History Project (IHP), was working with Professors Deborah Dash Moore and Karla Goldman researching Jewish students and faculty throughout the University's long history. Leflein says, "That experience led me to consider the impact and eventual legacy of the current University of Michigan Jewish student body of which I was a part. Further still, that project prompted a realization that there had never been an undergraduate Judaic Studies journal at U of M."

During such a challenging moment



for Jewish students on college campuses across the U.S., there could be great benefit to creating a new forum for continued student engagement with Judaic Studies. The new journal will both provide a forum for students to showcase their work within Judaic Studies and create a place where students will further engage with the ideas of their peers and feel a part of a community of students.

Leflein continues, "I reached out to Sophie Pardo-Reed, my fellow IHP student researcher and fellow student ambassador at the Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Sophie shared my enthusiasm for an undergraduate journal and together we set out to organize a team of student editors and solicit student submissions. Sophie and I brought on three additional student editors — Sara Taub, Gabrielle Taichman, and Hannah Goldwin — and we began working with a faculty advisor, Professor Elliot Ginsburg."

The work in the first volume of the journal will showcase students' varied approaches to Judaic Studies, as well as highlight the many possible areas of exploration within Judaic Studies. Leflein again, "By working collaboratively with student authors, we sought to ensure that the presented works most effectively communicated the students' ideas, and thereby fulfilled the ideal behind our title, *A Word in Its Place*. That ideal and the origin of our title is more expansively discussed in the Letter from the Editor which opens Volume I of the journal. Suffice it to say the title phrase is a 'pearl of wisdom' pulled from a Yiddish text on my grandparents' bookshelf."

The first volume of the journal includes artwork, a student reflection based on an important and insightful oral history, a range of research papers, and a Judaic Studies honors thesis. This volume is available online and in print, made possible by a generous grant from the Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.

While the digital journal provides access to a broader audience, the students felt strongly about producing a physical publication that would be a source of pride for the students. The print version of *A Word in Its Place* is available at the Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Offices, and it can be viewed at the University of Michigan's Shapiro Undergraduate Library and Bentley Library. The journal can also be accessed at sites.lsa.umich.edu/judaicstudiesjournal/. ■

AARC welcomes Shlomit Cohen as Beit Sefer director

By Emily Eisbruch

Shlomit Cohen

"I am thrilled to be the director of the AARC Beit Sefer," says Shlomit. "After teaching at the AARC Beit Sefer for five years, directing the program will be as natural as going back home. My son, Eli, had his bar mitzvah at the AARC. I am delighted to step into this position and give back to my community in the best way I can."

Shlomit's vision is for a religious education program focused on supporting children in forging their unique lifelong Jewish identity. She believes in a hands-on (as well as brain- and hearts-on) student-centered approach.

Shlomit notes, "There are many ways that a person can access their Judaism. As an educator, I'm eager to help people find opportunities to open many doors and explore the different ways of being Jewish. One of the special features of the AARC Beit Sefer is an emphasis on outdoor opportunities, including programming at a farm a few times per year."

Shlomit, a native Israeli, grew up on a kibbutz. During her mandatory national service, she was in the education unit, teaching outdoor education to civilian children and adults. A trained archeologist, Shlomit later held positions at both the Ein Yael Living Museum and the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem. In these roles, Shlomit coordinated with professional development teams and other educational institutions to develop, plan, and implement educational programming.

Since coming to the United States 20 years ago, Shlomit has taught in a variety of settings, primarily focusing on Jewish religious education and Hebrew. She always seeks to create cooperative education experiences that engage individuals and families both artistically and intellectually.

In 2019 Shlomit earned a masters in Jewish education from the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). In addition, she completed a yearlong program in Israel education at The iCenter in Chicago. She loves the outdoors, gardening, cooking, and entertaining and she has taught yoga for over 30 years.

Shlomit's goal is to lead a supportive team with the Beit Sefer madrichim (teen leaders) to ensure that the kids will be happy and excited to go to school.

More information on the AARC and the Beit Sefer is available at https://aarecon.org/. Anyone interested in discussing the AARC Beit Sefer and whether it could be a great fit for their child is invited to reach out to Shlomit at shlomitcmail@gmail.com.

AARC Events for September

September 13

Meditation led by Anita Rubin-Meuller, 10–10:20 a.m., followed by a hybrid Shabbat Service led by our Rabbi, Gabrielle Pescador, at the JCC and on Zoom. Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event. 10:30a.m.–noon.

September 26

Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat. This is a hybrid service led by Rabbi Gabrielle Pescador in person at the JCC and on Zoom. Everyone is welcome! Followed by a nut-free potluck Oneg. 6:30pm.

For more information about services or events or to receive Zoom links, please email:

info@aarecon.org

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation

website: aarecon.org ■

Community

The art of rising again: Why we're teaching resilience this year

By Orit Aviran

The times they are a-changin'" wrote once the great Jewish musician, Robert Allen Zimmerman, also known as Bob Dylan.

The times are indeed changing, and with them our parenting and education must evolve. Access to information and technology, the pace of change, and our global environment challenge schools to adapt and provide children with value beyond the purely academic and social.

Recent research and literature reveal concerning trends. Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt documents in *The Anxious Generation* how children's mental health declined sharply in the early 2010s, coinciding with the shift from play-based to phone-based childhood. Rates of depression, anxiety, and self-harm doubled among adolescents who grew up with smartphones and social media. While we made the physical world increasingly safe for children, we inadvertently exposed them to new psychological risks in unregulated digital spaces.

Haidt's research shows that children need what he calls "antifragility" — the ability to grow stronger through manageable challenges. When we remove all obstacles from their path, we may actually weaken their capacity to handle life's inevitable difficulties.

This understanding drives our choice of resilience as this year's theme at Hebrew Day School, guided by the well-known teaching: "A person should always be soft like a reed and never hard like a cedar" (Tractate Ta'anit 20a). Here we learn that sometimes the cedar's rigidity becomes its downfall. The mighty tree that refuses to bend may be uprooted entirely, while the humble reed sways with the storm and rises again.

Individuals and communities alike frequently encounter situations requiring precisely that kind of mental flexibility — how to take challenges as opportunities for growth, and how to open new doors when previous ones close before us.

This year, we're creating opportunities for students to take appropriate risks, solve problems independently, and learn from failure in a supportive environment. They'll discover that mistakes are part of learning, that disappointment can lead to growth, and that asking for help shows wisdom, not weakness.

Individual resilience connects naturally to community strength. There's an old parable about a farmer whose quarreling sons easily snapped a single stick, but could not break the bundle: "Alone you are easily conquered," he told them, "but together you are invincible."

We understand that communal resilience is built upon and supported by individual resilience. As our students develop their capacity to sway with the wind and stand tall again after the storm, they also learn the power of facing challenges together. Supported by classmates, teachers, and families, we are encouraging them to use their developed strengths to become meaningful contributors to their communities.

Resilience is our annual theme this year, but it is only one element of our broader educational vision at Hebrew Day School. To learn more about our philosophy and programs, visit us at hdsaa.org or contact oaviran@hdsaa.org. ■

Rabbis Corner

"Everything that G-d does is for the best"

By Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Chabad of Ann Arbor

Rabbi Goldstein

On September 13, the Torah portion, Ki Tavo, contains the curses to be inflicted on the Jewish people if they do not obey G-d. The Torah teaches that "no evil comes from Above." Accordingly, we must conclude that even the most terrible curse contains only good, albeit in a hidden fashion.

Our Sages made two statements on the subject of hidden good: "Everything that G-d does is for the best" and "This is also for the best." The first statement is attributed to Rabbi Akiva, who once set out on a journey with a donkey, a rooster, and a candle. Weary from his travels he reached a town, only to be turned away from all of its inns. Rabbi Akiva had to spend the night out in the open field on the outskirts of town.

That night, a lion appeared and devoured the Rabbi's donkey, a wild cat came along and gobbled up the rooster, and the wind blew out the candle. Rabbi Akiva said, "Everything that G-d does is for the best." In the morning Rabbi Akiva found out that during the night murderous robbers attacked the town, slaughtering all its inhabitants. He then understood that what had befallen him had saved him from a similar fate.

This story illustrates one way of understanding ultimate good which seems to be hidden within its opposite. Although Rabbi Akiva's misfortunes caused him temporary anguish, he was spared further suffering by those very events. The wording itself of "everything G-d does is for the best" implies that whatever happens leads to ultimate good, even if it appears at first that the events themselves are not good.

A second story, about Nachum Ish Gamzu, illustrates another way of reconciling our problem. He was sent by the Sages to appease the Roman Emperor with a chest full of pearls. Along the way, unbeknownst to him, the pearls were stolen and replaced with earth. When the Emperor opened the tribute and saw the dirt he wanted to put the sage to death. Nachum Ish Gamzu said, "This is also for the best."

And indeed it was, for G-d sent Elijah the Prophet in the guise of a minister, who suggested that the dust might be similar to the dust with which Abraham was victorious in his wars. The Emperor sent some to his soldiers on the front who immediately won the battle. In gratitude, the Emperor awarded Nachum Ish Gamzu great riches and high honors.

In this instance, what seemed at first to be misfortune turned out to be advantageous. Not only did nothing bad happen to Nachum Ish Gamzu, but he ended up being given great wealth by the Emperor. Had he brought pearls to the Emperor there was no guarantee that he would have been well received. It was precisely the earth which delighted the Emperor. There was no evil; everything which transpired was good.

Nachum Ish Gamzu, Rabbi Akiva's teacher, was one generation closer to the era of the Holy Temple. Rabbi Akiva lived in a time more properly belonging to the exile. When the Holy Temple stood, the Jews could more easily discern the good contained in everything, even that which at first appears adverse. The exile makes it difficult to see this, and only the good resulting from seemingly bad events is discernable. As we approach the Final Redemption may we soon merit that G-d removes all concealments so that we will be able to truly understand the ultimate good hidden in all of our suffering throughout the ages. ■

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FALL EVENTS

Visit **lsa.umich.edu/judaic** for more information

Jewish Music in 4 Objects: A Roundtable Discussion

Guest Speakers: Jeremiah Lockwood, Assaf Shelleg (pictured)
Tuesday, September 16 | 5 - 7 PM
Room 2022, South Thayer Building
An interactive presentation looking at Jewish musical objects in multiple contexts.

The Great Yiddish Parade: Culture, Activism, and Song

Guest Speaker: Vivi Lachs (pictured)
Tuesday, October 21 | 5 - 6:30 PM
Room 2022, South Thayer Building
A student-geared workshop for anyone interested in Yiddish!

Transnational Yiddish Press: A Roundtable Discussion

Guest Speaker: Vivi Lachs
Thursday, October 23 | 5 :30 - 7 PM
Room 2022, South Thayer Building
A scholarly discussion of transnational Yiddish print media and Lach's new book, *East End Jews: Sketches from the London Yiddish Press.*

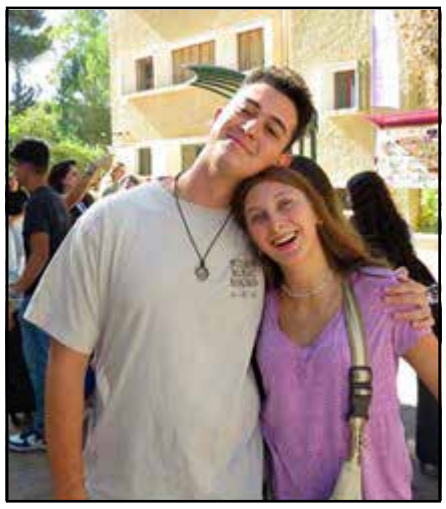
We are pleased to provide reasonable accommodations to enable full participation in this event. Please contact js-event-coord@umich.edu to request disability accommodations or with any questions/concerns.

Ann Arbor's new Israeli gap-year volunteers

By Amichay Findling, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

This August, the Ann Arbor Jewish community welcomed its second cohort of Israeli gap-year volunteers dedicated to the local community — the "ShinShinim." The name ShinShinim is an acronym for the Hebrew phrase "Shnat Sherut," or year of service. This new set of elite Israeli volunteers arrived following a successful inaugural year of the program in Washtenaw County with former ShinShinim Danielle and Lahav, who have now returned to Israel for their military service.

Carmel and Ori, both 18 years old, have decided to dedicate a whole year of their life to community volunteering right as they graduate from high school, postponing their military service and academic studies for a year, to come serve here in Ann Arbor.



Ann Arbor's newest ShinShinim, Ori and Carmel.

ShinShinim are carefully chosen from thousands of applicants after a lengthy and thorough selection process which evaluates candidates' personality traits, creativity, interpersonal skills, knowledge of Israeli culture, fluency in English, and much more. After a rigorous selection process, these young Israeli ambassadors/emissaries engage in a 9-month training program before being sent to Jewish communities around the world to share their youthful and enthusiastic Israeli spirits and serve as outstanding representatives of Israel.

ShinShinim bring their energy, love of Israel, and unique perspectives to worldwide synagogues, religious schools, preschools, and Jewish community centers. In addition to Jewish organizations, they often serve as informal educators in public schools and other venues in the community. ShinShinim provide an authentic Israeli perspective, sharing on a range of topics including Israeli culture, Jewish identity, Jewish celebrations, and life in Israel in general, through creative programs and challenging discussions. One of their main objectives is to promote lasting engagement between their host community and Israel by forging personal relationships with community members that ultimately build strong, meaningful ties for the future.

In Ann Arbor, Carmel and Ori will work with youth and teenagers in multiple local Jewish institutions, including Hebrew Day School, the JCC, and the religious school at Temple Beth Emeth. In addition, they will participate in and initiate a variety of community activities in the Ann Arbor area's public sphere, bringing with them strong experience as youth movement counselors, as well as expansive artistic and intellectual interests.

Carmel comes to Ann Arbor from a moshav in the Hefer Valley region of central Israel. She studied biology in high school and has been an educational entrepreneur from a young age. Carmel's interest in early childhood education inspired her to tutor younger children and establish camps in her community. She has also danced professionally and loves sports.

"I would like to show a real Israeli person and not just statistics and stories," says Carmel about why she wanted to join the ShinShinim program. "I love Israeli nature, the Kinneret, the wide south, the birds. And of course, the diverse cultures in Israel that arise from the melting pot. If there is something I will be proud of and fill my heart, it is to represent our beautiful Israel."

Carmel's accomplice in all things for the coming year will be Ori, also hailing from central Israel, the city of Ramat HaSharon. Ori studied biotechnology and chemistry in high school and brings to Ann Arbor significant experience organizing thoughtful, meaningful events. He is an experienced counselor in Israel's scouts and a member of his school's and scouts' events committees. In addition to being a competitive swimmer since age six, Ori is an active photographer and enjoys acting and music.

Ori shares the moment he realized he wanted to be an Israeli emissary. "On October 7 [2023], I was in London with my father. While talking to my British cousin and her friends, I realized that, even though they are Jewish, most of them didn't know much about Israel or our culture. That's when I started thinking about how I could contribute and help Israel after everything that has happened."

Carmel and Ori's time in Ann Arbor is made possible by the Jewish Agency for Israel, the generosity of the Zeff Family Foundation, and, most of all, the generosity and enthusiasm of many community volunteers, including those who will host the ShinShinim in their homes for the year.

For further information about engagement and volunteering opportunities with Carmel and Ori, contact Amichay Findling, the Jewish Federation's Israel and Overseas Programs Manager, at amichay@jewishannarbor.org.

And most important, if you see Carmel and Ori around, make them feel at home; don't be shy, say "Hi!" ■

The Samantha Woll Dialogues
2025–2026

SEP 09 SHOULD UNIVERSITIES ADOPT A DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM?
Eli Mayerfeld and Kenneth Stern
4:00 PM Rackham Amphitheatre

SEP 30 IS TOLERANCE ENOUGH?
Andrew Murphy and Amir Hussain
4:00 PM Union Kuenzel Room

OCT 21 SHOULD HATE SPEECH BE REGULATED ON SOCIAL MEDIA?
Roy Austin and Matthias Becker
4:00 PM Rackham Amphitheatre

NOV 11 SHOULD RELIGION PLAY A ROLE IN THE LAW?
Winnifred Fallers Sullivan and Benjamin Berger
4:00 PM Union Pendleton Room

JAN 27 CAN WE MOVE FROM OCTOBER 7 TO PEACEMAKING?
Shai Feldman and Khalil Shikaki
4:00 PM Rackham Amphitheatre

FEB 03 WHY DO MONUMENTS MATTER?
Erin Thompson and Anoush Tamar Suni
4:00 PM Rackham Amphitheatre

MAR 10 IS AMERICAN ANTISEMITISM EXCEPTIONAL?
Pamela Nadell and Deborah Dash Moore
4:00 PM Rackham Amphitheatre

APR 14 IS THERE A PATH FORWARD? TWO VIEWS FROM THE GAZA BORDER
Jonathan Dekel-Chen and Kamal Almashharawi
4:00 PM Union Anderson Room

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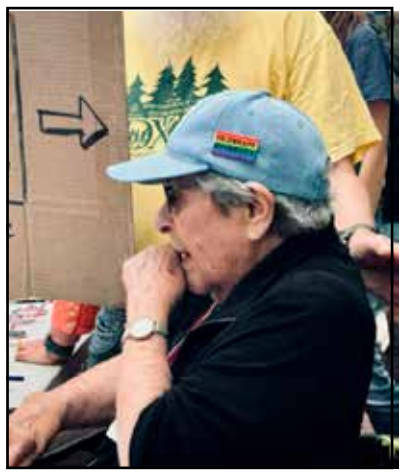
Adele Bayer continues from page 1

Adele is 105 years old.

The Weight of Joy and Sorrow

I met with Adele Bayer in her daughter Renee's comfortable home in Ann Arbor. Adele, born in Pontiac, Michigan, in 1919, speaks with a strong, steady voice. Her daughter, Renee, says that, like many superagers, her mom is an upbeat, mentally active person who is curious about the world.

At 105, Adele's life reflects the full weight of joy and sorrow. She lived through the Great Depression, the rise of the Nazi regime, World War II, and two pandemics. Her father died of the 1918 influenza pandemic before she was old enough to know him — an



event which colored her entire life. She tells me this plainly, not for sympathy but as record: her life began in a pandemic and would circle back to one again.

After the death of her father just one month after Adele's birth, Adele's newly single mother worked in Detroit struggling to make ends meet. Adele spent much of her childhood with her grandparents, who she says were very good to her but sometimes lacked the energy to be engaging companions for a child.

She always voted. Her first ballot was cast for Roosevelt, who remains her favorite president. "Roosevelt got things done," she remembers, "but he did it legally." Still, she never considered herself political. Now, Adele says she is frustrated, angry, and heartbroken about the changes in the United States since Donald Trump was first elected president in 2016. She says, "This was the land of the free and the home of the brave, but it's not now."

From Then to Now

Adele tells of her family's immigration to America. Her grandparents and parents, who were Jewish, immigrated to the United States starting in 1912 to escape oppression and violence targeting Jewish communities in their native Poland. Adele is proud that the United States provided a safe haven for her family. She says, "They worked very hard, but it didn't matter, because they were free." Later, she addresses the Holocaust with heartbreaking honesty. "I lost a large family in Europe," she says. "They were all taken to a camp [...] and I understand that they just were starved to death."

She does not compare then to now; she does not need to. "All of the other horrible things were in different countries. Now, this is affecting us right here in our own country and it's being destroyed," she says.

Growing Up Together

Adele graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in pediatric nursing. In 1941, just a few weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that thrust the United States into World War II, she married Harmon Bayer, a fellow University of Michigan alumnus and a chemical engineer. Harmon enlisted in the army, where he served in the Public Health Corps. After the war, Adele settled into life as a stay-at-home mom, raising three sons and a daughter. She says, "My whole life has been really with the children. I love them." She remembers the social upheaval of the 1960s and 1970s but says, "l didn't do anything. I wasn't political." She explains that she was "busy being a mother and growing up with [the kids]. I needed to grow up too, because" — growing up, largely separated from her mother — "I never had a childhood."

Although Adele insists she wasn't involved in politics, her daughter, Renee, remembers conversations with her parents about the women's movement, civil rights, and the Vietnam War. Harmon Bayer, a loving and broad-minded person, opened up Adele's world, including traveling with her to Israel. Now, Adele has visited Israel more than 50 times, most recently to celebrate her 100th birthday. Adele says, "It was my biggest dream to go there when I was 100." Much of the political action in the family home focused on supporting Israel and Jewish people. In many ways, this was the only kind of activism Adele knew: private, familial, tied to identity.

Waking Up

The four Bayer children grew up to work in humanitarian professions, including healthcare, social work, and education. It was Adele's daughter, Renee, a retired academic specialist who worked in public health and science education at the University of Michigan and Michigan State, who led her to a more active political life.

Adele's political consciousness emerged during the COVID-19 lockdown, the second global health crisis of her life. In March 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency in response to the arrival of COVID-19 in Michigan. Adele, then 101 years old, was living in her small apartment in a senior community in West Bloomfield. Adele's children, who were determined that their mother live out her second pandemic safely, brought Adele to Renee's home in Ann Arbor to shelter in place together.

"It was when I came here and I was with them that I woke up," Adele says.

During those quiet months, she spent long days watching cable news with her family. She discovered *The Rachel Maddow Show.*

"I never knew her before, but now she has become my hero," Adele says, grinning. "The other

one, of course, is Lawrence O'Donnell. He's amazing. I love when they banter back and forth. That's really the best."

Now back at her beloved senior community, Adele subscribes to cable TV so she can stay up to date with the news, and she faithfully watches the Rachel Maddow show on Monday nights, often joined by her son, Chuck.

For the Children

Adele does not hide her feelings. She feels genuine anger at the erosion of democracy in her country. "I feel like the whole country is falling apart. It's just not my country," she says. "I don't feel free, and I don't feel brave. This [the protest and the interview] is being brave because I never did anything like this before. It's invigorating to be able to do something, you know?"

Throughout our conversation, Adele keeps circling back to the same concern: children.

"Children are hopeful and enthusiastic. They believe what they're doing is going to matter," she says. "We have to think about the children who are being affected by this government. For me, children are the future. That's who we have to take care of." ■

Women of Temple Beth Emeth
WRJ

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- **Our programming.** The Women of TBE develop exciting new programs each year while preserving our community traditions.
- **Our fundraising.** WTBE brings world class arts and entertainment, hands on workshops and operates Ann Arbor's only Judaica Gift Shop, plus so much more, in order to advocate for local, national and global initiatives promoting Reform Jewish values.

Scan the QR code for more information and membership registration.

Questions? Email: wtbe@templebethemeth.org

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Yom Kippur: Thurs., Oct. 2, 2:00 at the JCC
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Where the spiritual meets the personal: High Holy Days at Pardes Hannah

Pardes Hannah's High Holy Days this year will be co-led by rabbis Elliot Ginsburg and Aura Ahuvia, as it explores the theme Lev Tov, "Good Heart," taken from a curious story in Pirkei Avot.

According to the story, Rabban Yahanan ben Zakkai told his five disciples to try figuring out the "right path" in life. "Go out and observe," he directed. They did, and upon their return, they each had a different answer: a good eye; being a good friend; being a good neighbor, having foresight, and lastly, having a good heart. Ben Zakkai favored having a good heart "because it includes the others."

We might ask ourselves today: What is good-heartedness? Where does it come from? Is it worth cultivating, and if so, how?

Rabbi Professor Elliot Ginsburg, founder of Pardes Hannah Ann Arbor

Pardes Hannah (PH) explores its thematic questions through prayer, reflection, teaching, and discussion. This year, PH welcomes Rabbi Ahuvia, a musically gifted singer and guitar player ordained in Jewish Renewal over a decade ago, to co-lead. Rabbi Ahuvia was enthusiastic about remaining local for this year's holidays.

"I have learned so much from my travels around the country," said Rabbi Ahuvia of her stints leading High Holy Day services in San Francisco, Portland, and Dayton over the last five years, "but Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti is where my heart is. I can't wait to reconnect with spiritual community here in my hometown."

High Holy Day services mix tradition with innovation. For example, two Yom Kippur services, the Avodah service (close to the end of the morning service) and Yizkor (late afternoon), offer unique options for deep practice. PH's Avodah service, which is typically a word-filled liturgy recapitulating the dramatic biblical scene in which the high priest entered the central chamber of the temple. Drawing upon the Zohar, the masterwork of Jewish Mysticism, Rabbi Ginsburg brings reflection, meditation, and chant to the question of what it means to enter the Holy of Holies. The goal is to translate the energy of this powerful moment to today's communities. Later that afternoon Yizkor, a service honoring the memories of those who no longer walk the earth, will offer opportunities for personal sharing in a sacred setting.

Under the devoted spiritual guidance of Rabbi and University of Michigan Jewish mysticism Professor Elliot Ginsburg, Pardes Hannah has become an established Ann Arbor-area institution, anchoring Jewish Renewal within the larger Jewish community of Washtenaw County. Rabbis Rob Dobrusin and Nadav Caine have generously allowed PH to hold its services in the G&S 2010 Building at Beth Israel.

PH offers monthly Shabbat morning services, which are co-led by Rabbis Ginsburg and Ahuvia, as well as monthly Torah study, Rosh Chodesh gatherings, and other special events. All practices are taught; new members are not assumed to know either Hebrew or meditation.

The name Pardes Hannah is multi-layered. While it translates as "Ann's Orchard," a nod to Ann Arbor, the Hebrew words Pardes and Hannah also have independent meanings. Pardes is an acronym for multiple levels of Torah interpretation: "P" stands for p'shat, contextual meaning; "R" for remez, allegorical or philosophical meaning; "D" for drash, homiletical, midrashic meaning, and "S" for sod, mystical understanding. Taken together, this PRDS suggests Judaism's commitment to multi-layered truth, tolerating complexity and diversity while remaining connected to Torah. The second word, Hannah, was the name of a biblical figure who knew how to pray from the heart. We as Jews follow her example today.

PH's High Holy Day services are open to the public; they are free for PH members, whereas non-members may gain access by purchasing a Days of Awe Passport, which includes in-person and online access to all High Holy Day services, choir rehearsals, and the specially-designed Renewal machzor, or prayer book. Those who decide to join PH after attending its services may apply the cost of the passport to membership.

Since Pardes Hannah nurtures spiritual experimentation in Washtenaw County, it would find your support meaningful whether or not you were to personally join.

Calling All Singers

High Holy Day music is often described as hauntingly beautiful, lyrical, and distinctive; its melodies are only heard once per year. Pardes Hannah offers the opportunity to join in singing the highlights as part of its review and preparation for the upcoming Yamim Nora'im. In addition to familiar traditional prayer tunes, a select few chants particular to this year's service will also be introduced.

Three rehearsals are scheduled, led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia on guitar, Sunday afternoons September 7, 14, and 21, from 3–5 p.m. No ability to read or understand Hebrew is necessary; all lyrics will be provided in English, Hebrew, and English transliteration.

Open to the community. Pardes Hannah members attend for free, as do those with a PH Days of Awe Passport; for all others, the cost is $30 per session. Drop-ins welcome. For location and more information, contact Rabbi Aura Ahuvia by emailing PsychedelicRabbi@gmail.com.

What Is Jewish Renewal?

"Entering [prayer] words as if they were doors." That's part of the answer for Rabbi Professor Elliot Ginsburg, founder of Ann Arbor's Jewish Renewal congregation, Pardes Hannah. "At moments of prayer or stillness, I realize [a sense of] connectedness in the core of my being"

As a movement, Renewal is experimental in nature. It offers fresh takes on ancient and early practices in connecting with the Divine by inviting dance, free movement, chant, and meditation during services and study sessions. Members then share what that evoked, which often leads to rich discussions in an intimate, supportive setting. Over time, people find themselves on a deepening spiritual path, able to return to the group

Rabbi Aura Ahuvia, co-leader of Pardes Hannah services Aura Photos from Sudeep Studios

for support and encouragement.

"This is the deep nature of havurah, spiritual friendship," said Rabbi Aura Ahuvia, who was ordained in Jewish Renewal's ALEPH Ordination Program over a decade ago and has since served Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative, and Renewal congregations. "It's similar in principle to the Buddhist sangha. We practice alone together, and we grow in part by helping each other grow."

The Jewish Renewal movement grew up during the rise of independent Havurot. It was founded by Rabbi Zalman Schacter-Shalomi, a Hasidic Jew who escaped pre-Holocaust Europe. He went on to found a movement of access and celebration for American Jews who were otherwise disinterested in what they regarded as a desiccated religion. It has since grown, with congregations in Canada, Brazil, Europe, Australia, and Israel. Over the years, many practices that originated in Renewal communities have been adopted by mainstream congregations. Renewal seeks to revitalize the three pillars of Jewish life — prayer, study, and action. Its goals are to empower individuals and communities to respond to the ancient call of Torah as heard through modern ears. It draws on Jewish tradition, sacred text, mysticism, culture, history, and our own lived experience and inner truths.

To learn more, or to register for this year's High Holy Day services, go to www.PardesHannah.org or contact Rabbi Aura Ahuvia by emailing PsychedelicRabbi@gmail.com. ■

A2J Climate Circle

JFS supports A2J Climate Circle's mission

By Elina Zilberberg

Since its founding, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County has been committed to creating solutions, promoting dignity, and inspiring humanity.

Over the years, JFS has committed to and participated in positive climate actions, including energy sustainability, the recycling of unused and discarded foods, necessities, and furniture, and contributing to Ann Arbor's A2 Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan, a city resolution designed to leave Tree Town with a zero-carbon footprint by the year 2030.

Gloria Helfand, JFS Pantry volunteer

Regarding these actions, Chief Operations Officer Elina Zilberberg participated in a sit-down interview to explain the improvements made to their main location along State Street, the first of which was an energy audit for the building after it was purchased in 2019.

"The audit revealed that we had a lot of the old lighting around the building." Elina said. "So, we started writing grants to find the funding to replace most lighting with LEDs, to save a lot of energy."

Elina said that JFS is continuously looking to improve how the organization uses energy and is currently investigating replacing the air conditioning units, installing an electric vehicle (EV) charger for staff, utilizing solar panels, and constructing a geothermal power system. However, applying these changes does not come without financial burdens.

"It's always a balance whenever we can make these decisions as a nonprofit. We always have to ask, do we have enough funding to create this opportunity?" Elina said. "And obviously, for something like geothermal, we would have to be tapping into an architectural firm to suggest if that is possible."

Alongside transitioning to renewable energy, JFS has contributed towards the distribution of food and home necessities to those in need, through their Nourish Nutrition Services program.

"JFS has always been conscious about recycling things, finding donated goods like furniture, household items, and some personal items … " Elina said. "We are consciously contributing to the recycling of some wonderful items that somebody else enjoyed for many years, for other people to enjoy now."

"The Shalom Food Pantry, which is part of the Nourish Nutrition Services, is accessible to anyone who is suffering from food insecurity or cannot gain access to personal care items such as diapers, baby formula, and such." Elina said.

JFS also has a running partnership with Food Gatherers, where food is redistributed throughout the county to communities that need it. Elina shared that businesses like Zingerman's and Panera Bread often supply the organization with food to give to clients.

"We have a warehouse space that was generously donated by Tyner Furniture, which we use to collect donated furnishings and household items and keep them until they need to be distributed to clients," Elina said.

JFS strongly believes in the mission of A2J Climate Circle and the responsibility of taking care of our environment while delivering quality services to the community members. ■

Community-wide potluck dinner and climate action Shabbat at TBE

By Michael S. Simon

The Ann Arbor Jewish Climate Circle (A2J CC) is a Washtenaw County Jewish organizations coalition under the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) umbrella. Its goal is to coalesce our community to push back against the onslaught of climate change. To date, we have developed a rich network of community partners and, since February 2025, have published articles on what Judaism has to say about climate action.

To meet the goal of "coalescing" the community, the group has initiated quarterly community Friday night Shabbat dinners, the first of which was on June 27 at Temple Beth Emeth (TBE). The potluck was restricted to vegan options to make the activity as "climate-friendly" as possible, and with the thought of inclusivity regarding Kashrut. Overall, the atmosphere was uplifting. The potluck provided a welcoming environment for people to connect across various communities. Discussion included positive climate actions taken within the past year, which were shared with the entire group.

The TBE Climate Action Shabbat Service followed and was equally uplifting. Just before Shabbat, we were all provided the opportunity to connect to a link on our cell phones, which allowed us to send climate-related emails to our elected officials. Bill Parkus (TBE member), who planned the service, recognized and included individuals from all synagogue affiliates present.

Under the direction of TBE's Cantor Emma, we learned and sang in unison a Jewish climate action song called "The Tide is Rising." The service uniquely combined traditional aspects of liturgy with the notion that the community needs to take urgent and direct action to prevent the destruction of the world as we know it. Rabbi Josh Whinston very aptly summarized this notion in his dvar Torah. He minced no words in describing his greatest fear regarding climate change. As he put it, it was not so much fear for himself, but a rising concern about the impact of climate change on his family, his children, and the community's future. These words were inspiring for all who attended and should serve as a model for the entire Jewish community to rise up against the tyranny of what could happen to our future.

Yes, the "Tide is Rising," and as specifically outlined in Jewish tradition, we must take action now. As written in the sayings of our fathers (Pirke Avot), if not now, when?

Please join Beth Israel Congregation at the second A2J CC Potluck on November 7, 2025. The community calendar will provide more information. ■

Energy-saving rebates,

by Annie Wolock

Ann Arbor residents can get rebates for energy-saving home upgrades like heat pumps, insulation, and e-bikes. These incentives help lower costs, save energy, and fight climate change.

Take action, improve your home, reduce emissions, and join the city's push for a more sustainable future. Visit bit.ly/4jwhD74 for rebate availability and details. ■

TBE Dayenu Circle: How it all began

By Cathy Marshall

In February 2021, when my life was filled with pandemic Zoom meetings and outdoor gatherings, one of my college friends from New York posted a story on Facebook about Dayenu. This new group had recruited her to serve on their Advisory Board. Curious, I checked Dayenu's website (https://dayenu.org/) and loved what I saw. Dayenu's mission is "to secure a just, livable, and sustainable world for all people for generations to come by building a multi-generational Jewish movement that confronts the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action."

I had worked in the nonprofit climate change sector for several years. Since I am all for spiritual audacity and bold political action, I sharpened my email pencil and reached out to Rabbi Josh Whinston and the Temple Beth Emeth Social Action Committee. Rabbi Josh gave an enthusiastic thumbs up, and the Chair and Vice President for Social Action added it to the committee's agenda for the next day's meeting.

We set a date for our first meeting a few months into the future, and the office staff were more than happy to promote the meeting in the temple-wide e-blast each week leading up to the meeting. I asked people to email me if they were interested in participating, so I could reach out to them even if they couldn't attend the meeting. Both things — lots of publicity before the first meeting and having people reach out to me before the first meeting — increased the number of people who ultimately got involved in our Dayenu Circle.

We built things up rapidly during the first year and got quite a bit done for a fledgling committee! Our opening event attracted 120 registrants and 75 attendees. We created a webpage as part of the TBE website (https://www.templebethemeth.org/dayenu-circle), we promoted legislation, hosted workshops, developed a Green Building Policy, and coordinated several activities as part of Climate Action Week.

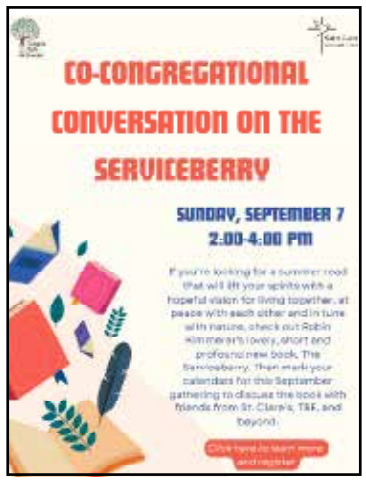
In subsequent years, our group hosted many more workshops, led Climate Action Shabbat services, coordinated cleanup efforts of our grounds, participated in legislative actions, coordinated two Sukkot picnic events, and led a "Reverse Tashlich" event.

The TBE Dayenu Circle has grown and morphed. New members have joined, while others have stepped away. The TBE Dayenu Circle remains a valuable way to get involved in TBE, and it continues to be a community avenue for combating climate change. ■

TBE events in September

Events and services are both in person and/or virtual. Please see www.templebethemeth.org for full details, location information, and links.

Tot Shabbat Service & Dinner
Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
Join the Clergy to celebrate Shabbat with fun activities, stories, songs, and age-appropriate learning for children ages 0–5. Registration requested.
Elementary Shabbat Service & Dinner (every second Friday of the month)
Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
A short service, song session, and community building! Most appropriate for children ages 5–10 and their parents, grandparents, and other adults. Everyone is welcome! Registration requested.



Wine & Cheese Shabbat Reception
Fridays at 6 p.m. (except for the second Friday of each month).
Lay-led Shabbat Service
Fridays at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday Shabbat service
Saturdays at 10 a.m.
Shabbat morning Torah study
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.
Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion.
Weekday morning blessings
Weekdays at 9:15 a.m.
Join TBE lay leaders each weekday morning for a short service of song, poetry, and meditation.
Twenty-five-minute mindfulness with Jewish spiritual director Linda Greene
Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Zoom room opens at 8:15 a.m. for optional check-in. Blessing and intention setting 8:30–8:35 a.m. Meditate 8:35–9 a.m. Start your day centered and connected.
Queer Torah Study
Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Join us in person or via Zoom for a discussion of queer themes in the weekly Torah portion! Led by Ari Marcotte & Ari Smith. Guest leaders welcome! Contact Ari M (ari.j.marcotte@gmail.com) for more information.
Back Door Food Pantry
Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m.
Meditation with Claire Weiner
Thursdays at 5 p.m.
Join Claire Weiner for a 40-minute meditation session.
Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Whinston
Fridays at 12 p.m.
Weekly Mahj
Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.
WTBE Gift Shop Open
Fridays at 5:30 p.m.
Washtenaw County's only Judaica Shop!
Jewish Book Club
Most Thursdays beginning September 4, at 11 a.m.
Preparing Our Hearts for the High Holy Days in Our Later Years
Tuesdays, September 2, 9, 16, at 10 a.m.
Sacred Aging Institute Havdalah
Saturday, September 6, at 6 p.m.
Co-Congregational Conversation on *The Serviceberry*
Sunday, September 7, at 2 p.m.
American Jews and the Labor Movement
Mondays, September 8, 15, 29, at 12 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.
WTBE Historical Novel Reading Group
Wednesday, September 10, at 1 p.m.
Technology and TBE with Jim Keen and Deb Katz
Wednesdays, September 10 and 17, at 3 p.m.
Women's Rosh Chodesh Circle
Wednesday, September 10, at 5:30 p.m.
WTBE Welcome Back Event
Monday, September 15, at 5:30 p.m.
LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck
Friday, September 19, at 5:30 p.m.
Renaissance Group Picnic
Saturday, September 27, at 5 p.m. ■

Beth Israel events in September

Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel for services, classes, and events. Services are being held in person and virtually, unless otherwise noted on the calendar. Below is a list of the links to participate virtually in services at Beth Israel. Beth Israel is live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links are also available on the Beth Israel homepage (www.bethisrael-aa.org). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at office@bethisrael-aa.org.
Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin via Zoom
Mondays, September 8, 15, and 29, at 4 p.m.
The class meets on Zoom on Monday afternoons from 4–5:15 beginning September 8. We will read the text in the original Hebrew or Aramaic with an accompanying English translation and discuss the text in English. No familiarity with Hebrew or prior experience studying Talmud is required. This fall, we will continue our study of sections from the tractate Megillah which includes some fascinating commentaries on the book of Esther, discussions on the reading of the Megillah and other sacred texts, and the observance of the holiday of Purim. All are welcome!
Shabbat Limmud with Rabbi Dobrusin
Saturday, September 13, at 9 a.m.
Shabbat Limmud is an opportunity for informal and lively discussion on the Torah portion of the week, over coffee and cake. We meet in the Beth Israel library before Shabbat morning services at 9 a.m. and will conclude at 9:45. Rabbi Dobrusin will facilitate the discussion and all texts will be provided. We invite you to join us for a stimulating start to Shabbat morning!
Selichot Program and Service
Saturday, September 13, at 8:30 p.m.
As we prepare our hearts and minds for the High Holidays, we gather for the moving and introspective Selichot service. Traditionally held on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah, Selichot marks the beginning of the penitential season, offering us a sacred opportunity to reflect, seek forgiveness, and return to our best selves. We invite all to join us for this meaningful evening of prayer and preparation.
ISRAEL360 and the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor Present Professor Alon Tal, an American formerly in Knesset: Making Sense of Israel's Tumultuous Parliament
Wednesday, September 17, at 6:30 p.m.
Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at Israeli governance from the perspective of an academic-turned-politician advocating for environmental protection, religious pluralism, and gender equality. Professor Alon Tal is a veteran Israeli environmentalist, Tel Aviv University researcher, and one of only seven American citizens to have served in Israel's Knesset. Please note that the location of this event will be announced later.
Aura of Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, September 19, at 6 p.m.
A Jewish Renewal-inspired singing service led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia. The choir, dubbed the "Holy Levites," will be holding a rehearsal at 5:30 p.m. leading right up to and seamlessly into services. All are welcome to attend.
Tot Shabbat
Saturday, September 20, at 11 a.m.
Tot Shabbat is for children through first grade and is held in the Krickstein Youth Library. This session will be led by John McLaughlin.
Sweet Start Family Program
Sunday, September 21, at 11 a.m.
You and your family are invited for a fun morning of Rosh Hashanah themed activities, crafts, and games, along with outdoor play (weather permitting) and pizza. Prospective members are encouraged to join the fun and see what Beth Israel Congregation has to offer! Please see our website for more details.
Tashlich and Minchah at Gallup Park
Tuesday, September 23, at 4 p.m.
Join us for a meaningful tashlich and minchah at Gallup Park in the Fast Shelter. Bring your own bread crumbs or birdseed for tashlich and a shofar for our shofar choir if you have one (plastic or real). Following minchah there will be some fun games to play. Please see our website for more details.
Theology Book Club — Online
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Beth Israel Congregation's Theology Book Club welcomes you to join them to read together and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. The books are in English. Contact Paul Shifrin at (248) 514-7276 for more information.

In Person and Online Services

Minyan
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the M&M Chapel and online
Sundays to Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. online only
Friday Evening Services — in person and virtual
Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m.
Shabbat Morning Services — in person and virtual
Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. ■

September Calendar

Always check websites or call for updates before planning to attend anything listed here. See page 4 for High Holiday Services schedules.

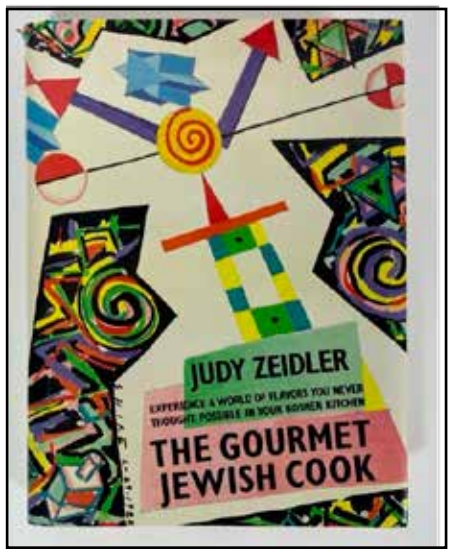
Wednesday 3
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. About 45 minutes each of conversation and reading. Free and open to all those interested in Yiddish language, literature, and culture, no matter what level of proficiency. For more information, to get the link, and to make certain that we are meeting on a specific day, please email Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu at least one day before scheduled meeting day every Wednesday (except major Jewish holidays). 2:00 p.m.
Friday 5
Candle Lighting 7:43 p.m.
First Friday Shabbat. Jewish Cultural Society. At the JCC. 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 6 Ki Teitzei
Havdallah 8:42 p.m.
Sunday 7
KlezMitten 2-9 p.m.
Monday 8
Chabad Ann Arbor 50th Anniversary Gala
Tuesday 9
Should Universities Adopt a Definition of Antisemitism? Wallenberg Institute. 4 p.m.
Wednesday 10
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group, see above): Zoom. 2:00 p.m.
Friday 12
Candle Lighting 7:31 p.m.
Parade at the Croswell Opera House. Through the 21st.
Saturday 13 Ki Tavo
Havdallah 8:29 p.m.
Sunday 14
Apples and Honey 2-5 p.m.
Peacebuilding Dialogue Project. 3-5 p.m.
Tuesday 16
Jewish Music in Five Objects: Frankel Center. 5-7 p.m.
Wednesday 17
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group, see above): Zoom. 2:00 p.m.
Thursday 18
JCC Amster Gallery Group Show opening. 6 p.m.
Friday 19
Candle Lighting 7:19 p.m.
Saturday 20 Nitzavim
Havdallah 8:17 p.m.
Monday 22 Erev Rosh Hashana Candlelighting 7:13 p.m.
Tuesday 23 Rosh Hashana
Wednesday 24 2nd day Rosh Hashana
Friday 26
Candle Lighting 7:06 p.m.
Saturday 27 Vayelech
Havdallah 8:04 p.m.
Tuesday 30
Is Tolerance Enough. Wallenberg Institute. 4 p.m. ■

Kosher Cuisine

Happy fall Jewish holidays and new school year

By Lonnie Sussman

I think the Ann Arbor Schools started the school year at the end of August, but I still think of the start of the school year as after Labor Day. Along with school supplies and new clothes because somehow the kids grew four inches over the summer, it's time to think about school lunches. Do you go with whatever they can get at school or are you a family that makes home-made lunches? I have fond memories of four years of high school with tuna fish sandwiches, a bag of potato chips, and a carton of chocolate milk followed by an apple. I'm pretty sure my own children never ate tuna fish sandwiches, and I haven't asked what the grandchildren like to eat for lunch. Hmm? Rosh Hashanah begins at the end of September this year so it's time to think about the family meals that will go on for the next month or so.



Scripture Cake

Serves 12–16

Let's start with dessert.

This recipe was the result of a national contest held by the Sabra liquor company about 50 years ago. More than 8,000 recipes were submitted and judged by *Gourmet Magazine*. The winning recipe was submitted by Hedy K. Malki, z"l. Her daughter, my friend, Diane Vinokur, sent this to me. Hedy won a free trip for two to Israel as the prize for winning the contest. It's also called "Nessa's Cake" because the trip to Israel allowed her to hold her newborn granddaughter, Nessa, born in Israel.

- ½ pound butter (Judges 5:25)
- 2 cups sugar (Jeremiah 6:20)
- 3½ cups flour (II Kings 5:2)
- 2 cups figs (I Samuel 30:12)
- 2 cups raisins (Samuel 30: 12)
- ¾ cup hot water or 1 cup milk (Genesis 24:22)
- ¼ cup Sabra
- 1 cup chopped and blanched almonds (Genesis 43:11)
- 6 eggs, separated (Isaiah10:14)
- 2 tbs honey (Exodus 16:13)
- ¼ tsp salt (Leviticus 2:13)
- 1 tsp cinnamon (I Kings 10:2)
- ¼ tsp allspice (I Kings 10:2)
- ¼ tsp mace (I Kings 10:2)
- ¼ tsp ground ginger (I Kings 10:2)

In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar together. Sift the flour and stir in half of it to the creamed mixture. In a separate bowl, chop the figs and raisins in the hot water; add the Sabra and the chopped almonds. In another bowl beat the egg yolks and then stir in the honey. Beat the egg white with a pinch of salt until they form stiff peaks. Sift the remaining flour with the ¼ tsp salt, cinnamon, allspice, mace, and ginger. Add the egg yolk mixture to the butter batter and alternate with the flour mixture. Fold in the beaten egg whites. Fold in the fruit and nut mixture. Spoon the batter into an 11x15" pan lined with waxed paper. Bake in a 375-degree oven for 50 minutes, or until the cake is browned and begins to pull away from the side of the pan. Remove from oven and let cool.

Brisket Tacos with Carrot Slaw

The Nosher, a website

What do you make for a big family meal for Rosh Hashanah or Shabbat? I make a small brisket for my son-in-law at Pesach. Everyone has their own way of making "the best brisket in the world." Here is one more recipe for brisket. Serves 6–8, or one son-in-law for a week.

- 4 lbs beef brisket
- Kosher salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tbs neutral oil
- 2 tbs granulated sugar or honey
- ¼ cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 medium red onions, quartered or 3 large shallots, halved
- 1 head garlic, halved crosswise (no need to remove the papery skin)
- 1 tbs hot smoked paprika (or just paprika)
- 1 tbs chili powder (or not, for those who can't take the heat)
- 3 tbs tomato paste
- 1 14-oz can crushed tomatoes
- 1 cup broth — chicken, vegetarian or beef

Season the brisket all over with the salt and pepper and leave for at least 1 hour at room temperature or overnight in the fridge, then returned to room temperature before searing.

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.

Heat the oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Sear the brisket fat-side down until well browned, then flip it over and sear the other side, about 4–5 minutes per side. Transfer to a cutting board or plate and pour out all but 2 tbs fat.

In a small bowl, dissolve the sugar or honey in the apple cider vinegar and set aside. Return the heat to medium-high. Add the onions and garlic to the Dutch oven and, stirring occasionally, until they get some color, about 4 minutes. Stir in the paprika, chili powder, and tomato paste, and cook until the spices are fragrant, and the tomato paste turns brick red, about 1 minute. Stir in the vinegar mixture, crushed tomatoes, and the broth, then bring the mixture to a boil. Season with a big pinch of salt. Let the mixture reduce for 5 minutes and then place the brisket back in the pot, fat side up. Cover the pot and place in the preheated oven. Remove the pot from the oven to baste every 40 minutes by spooning some of the liquid over the meat until the meat easily shreds when you pull a fork through it. This will take about 3 to 3½ hours. When done, remove the pot from the oven and skim off as much rendered fat as you can from the surface. Discard this fat. Uncover the pot and let cook for an additional 15 minutes. Then remove from the oven, let cool, and skim the fat again. Skim the fat every 15 minutes until ready to serve. Use 2 forks to shred the meat and coat entirely in the sauce. The onions and garlic basically melt into the sauce but if there are any whole cloves of garlic, smash them into the sauce.

Here's an easier way that will take a little more time. Remove the pot and allow to cool to room temperature, then refrigerate overnight, covered. The next day you can scoop off the solidified fat from the surface and return to a 375-degree oven for one hour, covered. Then shred the meat.

Carrot Slaw

You can use this for the tacos or as a side dish with or without the meat.

- ¼ cup lime juice
- 1 tsp honey
- ½ tsp red pepper flakes (optional)
- Kosher salt and pepper to taste
- 5 medium carrots, grated
- 6 scallions, thinly sliced

Combine the lime juice, honey, and red pepper flakes in a large bowl and season with the salt and pepper. Let sit for at least 15 minutes or up to 1 hour, then toss in the shredded carrots and scallions. Check the seasonings and add more if needed.

Spinach and Rice Soup with Mint

(I found the recipe in Tabletmag.com, but I've seen it in my Sephardi cookbooks as well. This can be parve or dairy and serves 4. It would be lovely for a light lunch.

- 1 pound spinach, rinsed and coarsely chopped
- 3 tbs extra virgin olive oil
- 3 green onions, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 4½ cups vegetable broth or water
- 3 tbs fresh mint leaves, chopped, plus more for garnish
- Salt and paprika to taste
- Plain yogurt for serving (optional)
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges

Heat the olive oil and add the green onions. Cook over a moderate heat for a few minutes. Add the spinach and mint and cook over gently heat for 2–3 minutes. Season with salt and a dash of paprika. Cook for another minute or two and add the broth. Bring to a boil. Then cover and simmer the soup for about 20 minutes, until the spinach has cooked. Serve with a dollop of yogurt and a little more chopped mint if wanted. Use the lemon wedges on the side of the soup plate for another bit of flavor.

Apple Salad With Nuts Fruit

Serves 8

This is not really a recipe but an idea for holiday meals. Two heads of the salad greens you like, two apples, washed but not peeled, and thinly sliced. Toast 1 cup of your favorite nuts: walnuts, pecans, almonds, pepitas, your choice. Add some dried fruits like raisins, cranberries, or apricots. Again, your choice. If you are serving a dairy meal, add in cheese. It could be feta, gorgonzola, or any other cheese you like.

Honey-Mustard Dressing

Gourmet Jewish Cook, by Judy Zeidler

- 1 tbs Dijon mustard
- 3 tbs balsamic vinegar or red wine vinegar
- 1 tbs fresh lemon juice
- 1 tbs honey
- ½ cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Use a processor or blender for all the ingredients except the olive oil. Once they begin to blend, slowly add in the olive oil until everything is well blended. Season to taste, put in a serving utensil, cover, and refrigerate until needed.

Quinoa with roasted vegetables

Serves 6–8

- 1 large eggplant, cut into pieces about 1 to 1-1/2 inches
- 1 onion, roughly chopped
- 1 pepper, chopped in pieces about 1 inch by 1 inch
- 1 cup of cherry tomatoes

A few weeks ago, we had 8 family members for Shabbat dinner, and I couldn't find any rice to make as a side dish. I did have a package of quinoa left over from Pesach. (Actually, there are a few more

continued to page 21

Kosher Cuisine continues from page 20

items in the pantry left over, including one box of matzah). I also had an eggplant, an onion, some peppers, and cherry tomatoes. After checking on a recipe from Ottolenghi and another from a different cookbook, I decided to do my own thing and wing it. The roasted veggies got nice and sweet and added tons of flavor. Don't cut the vegetables too small, they shrink when roasted. Use whatever you have or like. I roasted the eggplant in a 400-degree oven with lots of olive oil and some salt and pepper to taste and then added 1 tsp of allspice. That took about 20 minutes. I used a cast iron skillet for the onions, tomatoes, and pepper because they take less time to caramelize, and the eggplant took up most of the baking sheet. I hope you try the roasted eggplant, although I know some people don't like it. Trust me, well roasted eggplant is a yummy addition to this dish. You could try roasting some mushrooms as well to add the "meaty" flavor. While the vegetables are roasting, make the quinoa. Use 1 cup quinoa cooked in 2 cups water or broth. The package instructions were to bring the liquid to a boil then lower the temperature and add in the quinoa, cover, and cook for about 15–20 minutes. Drain and put into a serving dish. When the vegetables are roasted, add them to the bowl. That's it, unless you want a bit more allspice. ■

Lucinda Kurtz

Wail of the Shofar

Plaintive wail of the shofar
vibrates through bodies
reverberates through tissues
trembles tender arteries
awakens buried memories
lodged deep in bones.

Sturdy femurs carried us
across mountains, deserts
lugging tents, goat skins
precious water to slake thirst.
Shofar call from mountain top
heralded new moon, year, battle.

In this new moon of Elul,
after centuries of expulsions,
trekking across plains, oceans,
the shofar calls "tekia,"
waking us to awareness
testing our courage.

May our journey through
time and space
release old wounds
allow us to love, forgive
witness sparks of the Divine
in each upturned face.

Restaurant review

Small batch meats and lots more

By Candace Bulkley and Trina Fuller

Candace and Trina became friends in the Temple Beth Emeth adult b-mitzvah class that graduated in 2022. They will be honing their palates, visiting, and writing about a variety of independent, locally owned Washtenaw County restaurants, catering to a variety of dietary preferences.

You may have missed it while driving down State Street or while running into the Produce Station, but Biercamp has quietly been open, growing and gaining a large following of devoted diners since 2011. Owners Hannah and Walt have been perfecting smoking and curing meats, and making delicious sausages and sandwiches, many based on family recipes, for folks to discover *and* devour. Everything the good people at Biercamp create is made fresh, in small batches, and ethically sourced. They also brew their own beer, have hard cider, and have a not overly sweet root beer with a complex flavor that makes a killer float (made with local Guernsey vanilla ice cream) on tap, too. Yes, it does seem a bit strange that a sausage shop would be written about in a Jewish newspaper. Sausage normally brings to mind "the other white meat" — but not to worry, Biercamp has you covered with many other options including vegetarian!

There is a lot of ground to cover at Biercamp. First let's set the stage. You place your order in the retail shop. There you will find the daily chalkboard menu, beer taps, and refrigerator cases filled with hand crafted products — including those of other local businesses. A generously stocked condiment bar stands in the center of the space. The curry ketchup is not to be missed, and the spicy relish was appreciated by those of us who enjoy some heat. After you place your order; you are given a pager that will buzz when your order is ready to be picked up. You can choose to sit indoors, which is in an adjacent building, on the covered patio which is heated for cold temperatures, or in the expansive shaded yard, filled with tables, a sandbox and plenty of room for kiddos to roam. The space invites you to come in, exhale, relax, and stay awhile.

As mentioned earlier, all of the sausages and meats are handmade in small batches, which means the selection varies and there's a chance they will run out of some of the options. On the day we dined, there were plenty of items to choose from despite arriving late and some items selling out. Sadly, that included the macaroni and cheese. We stepped out of our culinary comfort zone and tried a variety of sausages, brisket, and several side dishes. We opted for two of the vegetarian sausages both made with Beyond Meat products, one a classic cheddar and ale bratwurst and the other, the iconic German street food currywurst. Both were quite good, the seasoning was spot on, and expert grilling enhanced the flavor and texture. A spicy Italian sausage made with elk and a spicy jalapeno chicken bratwurst were up next. Again both were delicious and grilled to perfection. Having never tried elk, our expectation was that it would be strong or gamey in flavor. On the contrary, it was pleasant, and the classic fennel seed and red pepper flavor typical in Italian sausage made itself known. The chicken jalapeno sausage was leaner, yet still full of flavor. It was very tasty on its own but topped with sauerkraut, it was launched to another level. As good as all of the sausages were, the best was yet to come.

The Backwood Tots featured tater tots topped with house-smoked brisket, coleslaw, pickles, onions, sweet jalapeno mustard, and BBQ sauce. The flavor and texture combination was just about perfect. To round our meal, we tried an order of respectable onion rings and a giant pretzel, which came our way as a substitute for the sold-out mac & cheese. A cheesy sauce and house-made sweet jalapeno mustard were perfect accompaniments to the salty pretzel. It was also a good vehicle to sample other options from the condiment bar. We had no idea how good a giant soft pretzel could be and how it could occupy one's thoughts days later. In the aforementioned refrigerator cases you might be lucky enough to find a container of banana or Oreo cookie pudding, as we did for a sweet ending to our meal. Both were scrumptious but the banana was our favorite.

There is so much more to explore at Biercamp. Take a look at their website for details about their story, how they support local businesses, and sustainable agriculture. Check their social media pages for information on specials and other exciting happenings.

Biercamp is a charming spot, located close enough to town to be convenient to everyone but far enough away from campus to have ample free parking. ■

Biercamp

1643 S. State St., Ann Arbor

734-995-2437

bier-camp.com

Feature

George Floyd's family and psychologists help name the wound

By Leslie McGraw

On Friday, July 25, the fourth-floor program room of the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch became a rare and vital space for honest dialogue, deep listening, and collective healing. The event, "Healing Racial Trauma: A Panel Discussion with the American Psychological Association Division 45 and the Family of George Floyd," drew more than 50 attendees from diverse racial, cultural, and faith backgrounds.

The panel was a meeting ground where lived grief met clinical wisdom. Moderating the discussion was Dr. Char Newton, an Executive Committee member of APA's Division 45, which serves as a national hub for psychologists dedicated to advancing research, advocacy, and clinical work on minority issues. Newton led the conversation with a video of recent events shown to the tune of Marvin Gaye's 1971 song "What's Going On?"

"Those words written over 50 years ago by Marvin Gaye still echo in our hearts today," Dr. Newton said. "What's going on? It wasn't just a song. It was a plea, a plea for understanding, a plea for healing, a plea for change in a world struggling with injustice and pain, and here we are, gathered today, decades later, asking that same question, what's going on today? As we gather, we not only want to ask the question, but to wrestle with some answers. We gather in the spirit of truth, resilience, and healing."

From the Floyd Family Center for Social Equity, Executive Director Thomas N. McLaurin carried the weight of loss and the determination it forged. McLaurin spoke plainly about the moment everything changed. He recounts being at his computer watching the Central Park Birdwatcher racial trauma moment when he heard his phone ring beside him: "When I got the video from my cousin, I watched maybe 30 seconds and thought, 'Here we go again.' Then I was told, 'That's your cousin.' Watching the whole thing put me in shock. I've only watched it once. From that moment I said, 'We've got to do something.'"

McLaurin didn't linger long discussing the moment George Floyd's life was stolen. He gave an introduction to their family dynamic. McLaurin was the eldest cousin of George "Perry Jr" Floyd. Since the Memorial Day Murder in 2020, several family members have spearheaded movements and organizations. One centers around his family origin story and birthplace of Fayette, North Carolina. A second was organized where his mom raised him in Houston, Texas, and of course, there is another in Minneapolis where he was murdered. Although the projects differ in each of these movements, they all carry the same overarching mission of turning pain to purpose.

At his side was his wife, Rev. Dr. Lisa Allen McLaurin — a theologian, musician, educator, and also a cousin of George Floyd. She reminded the audience that healing is not just about surviving harm but building strength before it arrives. She told us, "You have worth just because you are here. If no one has built that inside of you, trauma will have a more devastating effect. Everybody needs a therapist — everybody. But if you don't have one, you still need people who will pour into you." She explained that this worth must be nurtured early and reinforced often, because without it, trauma's effects can hollow a person from the inside. And when the circle of care is missing, the weight becomes heavier. "When we don't know what to do with trauma, we bury it."

On the other side of the table sat two psychologists whose expertise met the family's testimony in a kind of call-and-response. Matisha Williams, PSYD, LMFT, a performance psychology and wellness specialist at the University of Michigan, broke down the harm in clear terms, based upon her own dissertation research. Currently, there are not clinical definitions of Racialized Trauma or Intergenerational Racialized Trauma. Williams told the gathered, "Racialized trauma is a cumulative experience of race-based events. It builds over time, and that's what shapes how we see ourselves and how we move through the world."

For Williams, the murder of George Floyd unfolded not on a distant screen, but in the very streets she called home. Living in Minnesota at the time, she had once seen Minneapolis as a place of hope that might offer something different, more welcoming, as a Black person. "After George's murder, it put in our face that maybe we had this place wrong. That's when I learned how to protect my energy. I decided who I would engage with based on how they talked about it."

Dr. Sierra Carter, Associate Professor of Clinical and Community Psychology and director of the HEART Lab, added that it doesn't have to be your personal experience. "Seeing someone who looks like you harmed can take a toll because that could be your uncle, your cousin, your brother."

While noting the Intergenerational Racialized Trauma, Dr. Carter reminded us of Intergenerational Hope and Intergenerational Wellness. She and Williams urged us to note the beautiful way many Black parents have moved toward a multi-pronged message of both love and safety. A holistic approach would be "You are so beautiful, and I want to keep you safe."

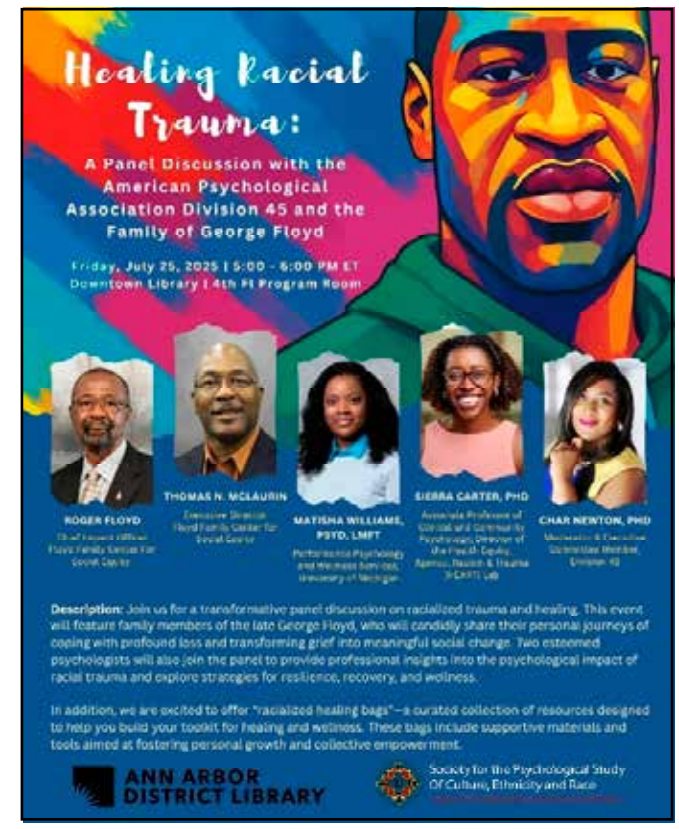
"We know from the research literature, that talking about only one side, only talking about the harm and the negative, is not as effective to thinking about the whole wellness and well-being of children's development. … It's these multi-pronged discussions that we see, particularly among Black parents, in which they're identifying the pride and the beauty of Blackness alongside the necessity for having conversations about what it means to be you in a society that engages in oppression and racism," offered Dr. Carter.

Rev. Dr. McMullin said the message she gives to children is, "You are of value and worthy from the get-go, just for being you."

The program was more than a panel. It was a living example of racial healing in action. Laughter mingled with tears as panelists and audience members exchanged stories. "I don't think I've ever been in a room with so many people from such different backgrounds all actively seeking racial healing from the inside out," one attendee reflected. "It made me realize that healing is not just possible — it's happening, right here."

As the evening concluded, the charge forward was clear: healing racial trauma is both an individual and collective responsibility. It requires truth-telling, resilience, and community.

For more information on the Floyd Family Center for Social Equity, visit www.floydfamilycenter.org. ■



Opinion

Blatant contempt for Jewish law, basic moral decency, and peace

By Ed Kass

On July 31, Israeli destroyed the propagation units of the Palestinian National Seed Bank in the West Bank city of Hebron. The bank, established in 2010, preserved heirloom varieties of crops and plants of economic importance and distributed their seeds to farmers. Israel bulldozed the structure, its irrigation and monitoring systems, tools for cleaning and drying the seeds, and took its documents.

Israel used for its legal justification that the structure was constructed without a building permit. The truth of this legal fiction is that Israel rarely gives permits to build in Area C (the Palestinian area it controls under Oslo) whether it be for schools, recreation centers, or even additions to homes to house aging parents and growing families.

Another "legal rationale" was that the facility was connected to the Union of Agricultural Work Committee (UAWC) that Israel designated as a terrorist organization. If this were so, Israel could have found a way to take control of the facility and turned it over to the Palestinian Authority or found another way to continue its work.

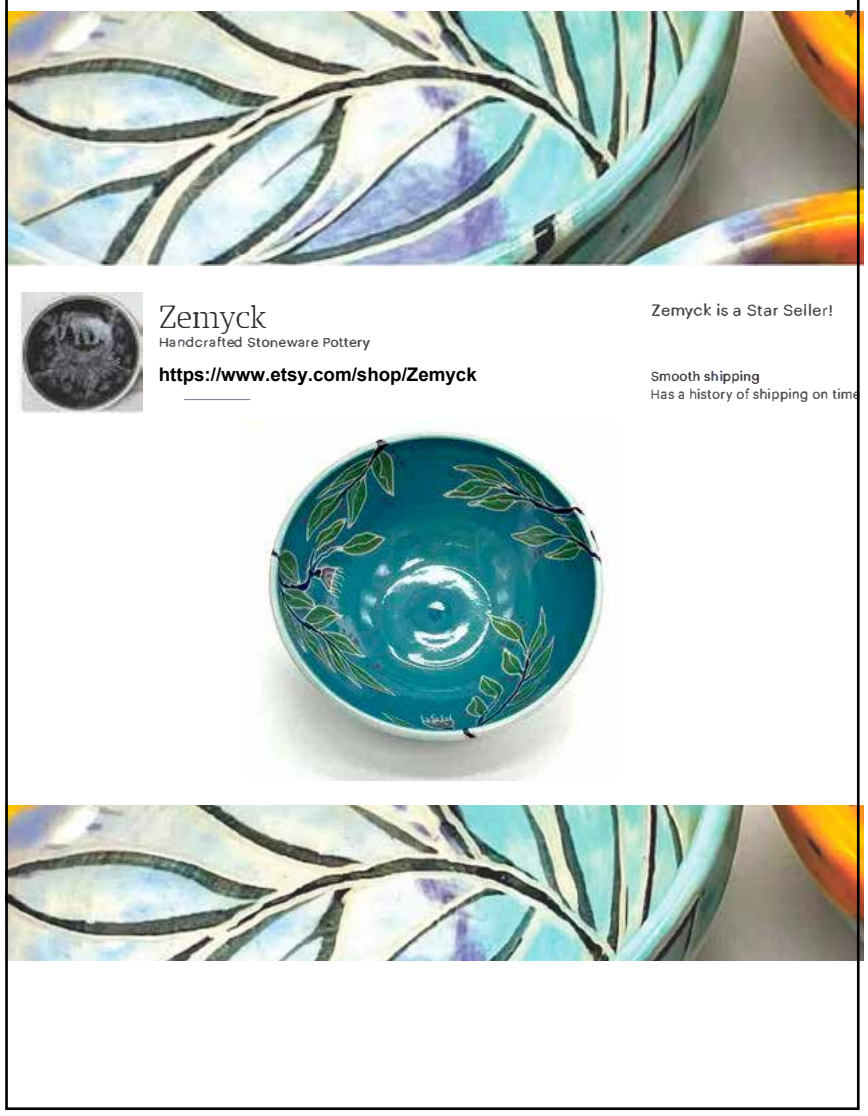
If Israel truly wanted to build bridges for peace with Palestinians that live on the West Bank, it would be working hand in hand with them to create and support institutions like the seed banks to build a flourishing sustainable economy that could feed itself and earn money through agricultural exports. The irony is that the seed bank represents exactly what Israel has become famous for: innovative agricultural technology and making "the desert bloom."

Another irony is Israel's disregard for Jewish Law especially under a government controlled by "religious" parties. In Parshat Shoftim of Devarim (Deuteronomy) one of the laws of warfare involves the cutting down of fruit trees: "When you besiege a city for many days to wage war against it to capture it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them, for you may eat from them."

This law understands that after warfare, life will continue, and sustaining life is paramount in Judaism. This law is rooted in one of the basic principles of our faith: Bal Tashchit, which means "thou shall not destroy." Israel destroyed acres of crops at this facility. By the way, the "Civil Administration" that rules Area C is part of the IDF.

Despite what is happening within Gaza and with Iran, we must not be blind or silent to what Israel is doing in the West Bank. We must not engage in l'hitalam that literally means "to hide oneself." We must not intentionally disregard what is happening. Israel's actions like the destruction of the seed stations, schools, recreation centers, and other civil Palestinian institutions along with housing, and the eviction of Palestinians from their dwellings, are designed to force Palestinians to leave. It is a violent "nonviolent" method to cleanse the land.

This should not be a surprise. The Israeli government (and even elements of the IDF) has increasingly come under the influence of a messianic Zionism that believes that only Jews should live on the land. This is one reason that permits the settler terrorists to operate with impunity under the protection of the Israeli military (as long as they do not attack the military). We must realize the nature of the warfare Israel is waging on the West Bank and act against it … for Israel's sake and the integrity of Judaism. ■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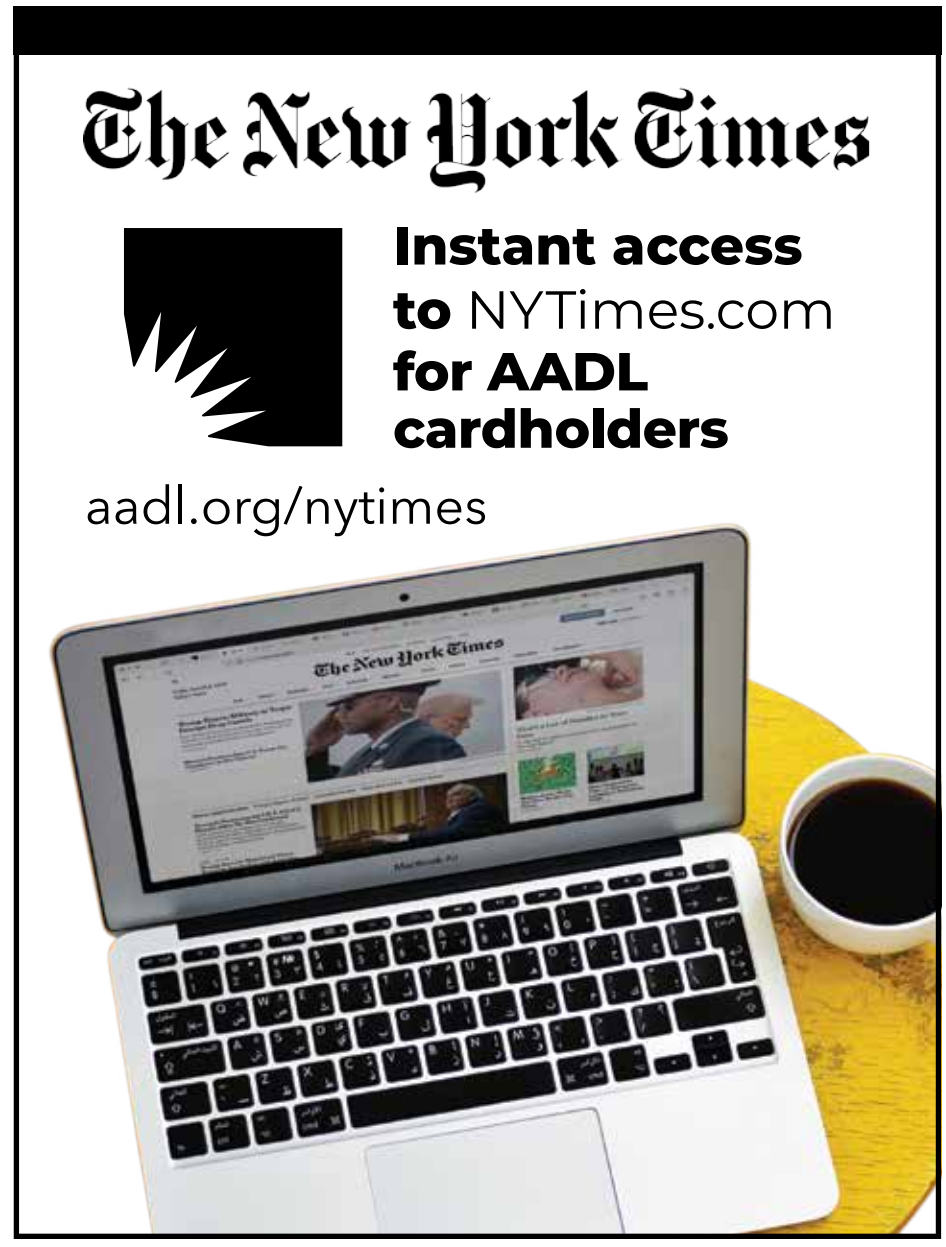
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L'Shanah Tovah
Take a step towards a Sweet New Year for all
WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES
Sunday, September 28th
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m
Burns Park Elementary
1414 Wells Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Event Chair: Breanne Stuart
Walk with us to make a difference.
Standing in solidarity with refugees who have endured the unimaginable, we recognize the strength it takes to begin again.
Register or Donate today!
jfsannarbor.org/walk-a-mile
JFS Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Feature

After his murder, Awdah is more alive

By Lauren Zinn

[Next month, WJN will continue with installments of Zinn's book in progress, Belong to the World, Bring Your Tribe: Reimagining Judaism in the Interspiritual Age.]

As the news of Awdah Hathaleen's murder on July 28, 2025, spread, I had a vivid dream about my friend. In the dream, all the journalists writing stories about his death (in every major news outlet) had gathered and were laughing at us, at me. Because we believed their stories. We believed Awdah was dead. But in fact, in the dream, Awdah was still alive. I felt a mixture of happiness and anger: happy that Awdah was *alive* (and I couldn't wait to see him again) and angry because of the unnecessary grief the journalists' prank put me/us through. When I woke up, I realized the dream was true.

Journalists around the world are keeping Awdah's message alive through their stories. So too are the many people who knew him. Now, more people know about Awdah's village of Umm al Khair in Masafer Yatta in the West Bank. Now, more people know about the ongoing injustices done to him, his family, and his community by right-wing extremist settlers, soldiers, police, and citizens (judges and legislators). Indeed, it was a known right-wing extremist settler who killed Awdah in cold blood while soldiers looked on, letting his murder happen, preventing a nurse from helping as he bled out and deporting her to keep her quiet. But in death, as the dream suggests, his power grows.

Who was Awdah? A beloved Bedouin Muslim Palestinian human rights and peace activist committed to nonviolence. An adored English teacher. A father of three boys under the age of five. A community organizer. A husband, son, brother, nephew, cousin, and more. A friend to activists all over the world. A journalist who wrote for *+972.* A soccer player. A coffee lover. A devoted member of his community who built a community center for all to gather, including international visitors. He welcomed everyone with all his heart and shared whatever he had. He wanted peace and security for all.

I met Awdah in early 2022 when I joined Face to Face, a Jewish Palestinian Reparations Alliance formed by Rabbi Burt Jacobson (z"l) and led by Phil Weintraub of Kehillah Community Synagogue. I wrote a story about one of my meetings with Awdah *(WJN* August 2023). I was always amazed by Awdah's optimism and trust in us, his American and Canadian Jewish friends, as well as Israeli Jews who volunteered with the Villages Group, Rebuilding Alliance, Green Olive Collective, CJNV (Center for Jewish Nonviolence), and others helping villagers in Masafer Yatta in the face of the cruelty by Israel's right-wing extremist settlers and soldiers.

Rabbi David Cooper of Kehilla Community Synagogue, who knew Awdah and was instrumental in helping Rabbi Burt (z"l) start Face to Face, wrote in an op-ed in *The Forward*, "Awdah, with his big heart, commitment to nonviolence, and analytical mind. Awdah, the creative source of many ideas, some fairly wild, such as making Umm al-Khair, the embattled village in which he lived, a tourist destination. He wasn't just a well-known activist, especially after his central role in the Oscar-winning documentary No Other Land. He was a well-loved one. For the first time, many American Jews now know one person in immediate grief for a Palestinian friend, killed by a Jew."

After October 7th, Awdah told our Face to Face group that things were worse [in the West Bank] now that all eyes were on Gaza. Extremist soldiers and settlers took more liberties stealing from and harassing them. In his last call for help he showed a video of settlers attempting to cut off the village water supply. The horrible things done to Awdah's village prior to this are too many to list. His only hope came from international activists who provided some protection. As the danger to these activists increased, they came less and Awdah's hope began to vanish.

Awdah died within minutes of being transported to an ambulance. As of this writing, three of his relatives are still detained because a right-wing extremist settler who murdered him, and yet walks free, simply pointed them out to the police who mockingly said they wished they had killed Awdah

As you can see, my grief is great. To have the kind of Face to Face relationships like our group had with Awdah, the global Jewish community must look itself in the face, recognize and admit that we allowed members of our community to become brutes, and then do the hard work of looking inward at our wounds and healing them to reveal our humanity in order to do the *real* work: reconciling and repairing our relationship with our Palestinian cousins. American Jewish and Christian Zionists of all stripes must recognize our culpability, for the U.S. government could have stopped the tragedies had we voted accordingly, had we woken up. As Awdah's cousin pointed out on a Green Olive Collective Zoom, it is our country that maintains this occupation which allows people with beautiful souls, like Awdah, to be killed.

On August 7, ten days after Awdah Hathaleen's death, hundreds gathered for his funeral. The area was ordered a closed military zone with checkpoints at every entrance to Umm al Khair. Despite an agreement allowing all mourners to gather, many were blocked by Israel's army. The women ended their hunger strike but Awdah's killer, Yinon Levy, has returned to terrorize the community along with regular raids by the army and half the water cut off to the village. People around the world are called to take action in grief, outrage, and solidarity. Dozens of cities in 29 countries on six continents have answered the call. Awdah was a "man of deeds" for peace. Please return the favor. ■

Fed Jewish agency 101 continues from page 8

as Russia's attack on Ukraine, or after acts of antisemitism, like the November 2024 mob-instigated antisemitic attacks against Israelis and Jews following a Europa League soccer match.

And JAFI also attends to those in need inside Israel. Since October 7 and through 2024, the Jewish Agency's Fund for Victims of Terror has distributed 8,425 emergency grants to victims and families, enabling them to tend to immediate needs after an incident without worrying about how to pay for them. The 3,369 rehabilitation grants JAFI has distributed since 10/7 include supporting the families of those killed and injured by Hezbollah's rocket attack on a soccer field in the Druze community of Majdal Shams in July 2024, as well as an additional 60,000 ILS in special emergency aid to help the community rebuild.

In addition, JAFI has invested in small businesses that have suffered due to the ongoing war, security situation, and reserve call-ups; helped tens of thousands of evacuees meet vital basic needs; and sent more than 1,000 teens impacted by the war and evacuation to Jewish summer camps throughout North America for respite and connection.

Youth Futures

Since 2020, the Ann Arbor area community has been helping at-risk youth and their families through direct funding to the Jewish Agency's Youth Futures program in Nazareth/Nof HaGalil. Youth Futures, one of Israel's leading positive-intervention programs, partners skilled mentors with at-risk children for a sustained period of cooperative learning and growth. Ann Arbor's local support of the branch based in Nazareth/Nof HaGalil serves Jewish, Christian, and Muslim children from across the spectrum of observance all together and offers an important social service in Ann Arbor's Partnership region.

The Jewish Agency is a vast organization with numerous projects in Israel and around the world, from youth villages to senior housing. You can learn more at jewishagency.org and see their 2024 Impact report at 2024.jewishagency.org.

The Jewish Federation's team is available to answer any questions or concerns you have about programs and initiatives it funds in Israel and around the world. You can contact Federation's Israel and Overseas Programs Manager Amichay Findling (amichay@jewishannarbor.org) to continue the conversation.

Eileen Freed is the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. ■

Obituaries

The WJN prints obituaries, memories, and eulogies free of charge for family members of Washtenaw Jewish community members as a service to the community and to honor the lives of those who have passed away. When local congregations send condolence notices to the WJN, the editor searches for obituaries online. Also, community members are invited to send obituaries to the editor.

Stuart A. Schwartz (Judge) died on July 23, 2025. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Darlene; son, Jeffrey (Devra) Schwartz, and daughter, Deborah (John) Carbone; grandsons, Jacob and Benjamin Carbone, Levi and Judah Schwartz. His family was most important to him, and he will be remembered as a kind and loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Schwartz graduated from the UW Law School in 1971 beginning his legal career as a trial staff attorney at Wisconsin Indian Legal Services. He joined the Dane County Probate Court in 1973 as Deputy Register/Registrar in Probate subsequently, becoming a Judicial Court Commissioner in 1976. In 1992, he was elected to the Dane County Circuit Court; a judicial position he held until his retirement in 2009.

He was a member of the Wisconsin State Bar, served as President of the Dane County Bar Association, served terms as Chief Judge of the Dane County Probate and Criminal Divisions, and was a Wisconsin representative to the National Probate College. He played an important role in helping to draft Wisconsin's mental health and guardianship laws. He was involved in the statewide creation of Drug Treatment Courts and presided over Dane County's Treatment Court for 10 years. During his career, Schwartz authored a booklet on mental health and guardianship laws, wrote several sections of the Wisconsin Judicial Handbook, often served as guest lecturer at the UW Law School, and spoke at numerous public forums. Throughout his career, he endeavored to make sincere and lasting contributions to the legal profession and the community.

In addition to his legal career, Schwartz was a member of Temple Beth El where he served on the Board of Directors and was a Temple Vice President. In 1976, he sat on the Board of Directors of the Dane County Mental Health Center. He co-coached in the Madison Little League and youth soccer when his children were young. He nurtured friendships and mentored young law students as his interns. He enjoyed travel, music, Wisconsin Badger sports, Packers, Brewers, Bucks, reading, movies, and most of all family life events. He was admired and loved by all who knew him, and his wit, wisdom, and tremendous heart will be deeply missed.

Ronald Feldbaum, 91, a devoted husband and father, cherished grandfather, proud veteran, and longtime resident of the Washington, D.C., area, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 26, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Ron is survived by his four daughters and their spouses: Merle and Julio (of Ann Arbor), Mindy and Lisa, Miriam and Paul, and Audrey and his adoring grandchildren Leah, Isabel, Dylan, and Jemma. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 64 years, Eleanor Gordon Feldbaum.

Born on January 27, 1934, and raised in Atlantic City, New Jersey, to Bertha Feldman and Louis Feldbaum. Ron loved summers in Atlantic City and starting at age 12, started working the amusement games at Steeplechase Pier for his Uncle Ed, and as a teenager, loved to go to music venues and saw some of the greats such as Louis Armstrong. Ron was an athlete in his youth and a standout placekicker on the Atlantic City High School varsity football team. After graduating, he proudly joined the U.S. Navy in 1954 and served in the Korean War as an airplane mechanic aboard the aircraft carrier USS Midway, circumnavigating the globe at age 20.

Following his military service, Ron married Eleanor and built a life centered on education, service, and family. He earned a degree in engineering from the Philadelphia Textile Institute and went on to study law at the University of Baltimore. He then began a distinguished 35-year career as a patent attorney at the U.S. Patent Office, specializing in textiles.

Ron loved music, dancing, and traveling. He was always the first on the dance floor — whether at weddings or family gatherings. He and Eleanor famously had a rock-and-roll wedding and filled their home with the sounds of Motown and the classics from the jukebox and danced with his children in the living room. He was a playful, lighthearted presence in the lives of his children and grandchildren, never missing a chance to pull a silly face, make funny voices, or invent games to make them laugh.

Ron was a hands-on engaged father and, in an era, where there were clearly defined gender roles, he broke the antiquated model of domesticity and threw himself into the role of father at home, whether it was cooking, shopping, playing sports, taking painting lessons with his daughters, fishing, or traveling across the country. With a strong wife and four strong daughters, he was an ardent feminist, as he wanted his wife and daughters to have no barriers in their personal or professional life choices. He did this all while juggling law school, raising four children, working full-time, and supporting Eleanor in her educational journey.

At age 55, Ron and Eleanor embarked on one of their most memorable adventures: packing up their home and moving to Europe for a few years to teach and travel. Ron relished this chapter, exploring great cities and museums of Europe, seeing firsthand the works of history's most celebrated artists, and immersing himself in the art and cultures of the countries they visited. The experience expanded his artistic interests beyond the stained-glass pieces he'd been making for years. He studied neon art and crafted a few of his own works and fell in love with watercolor painting. He set up an art room and spent the latter part of his life painting. His creative endeavors brought him much enjoyment.

Ron also remained deeply engaged in the issues of the day. As a veteran and a proud civil servant, he was passionately committed to democracy and justice, and over the past six months was upset about everything that was happening in Washington, particularly the dismatling of government and the firing of thousands of federal employees. In keeping with his values and desire to uphold those ideals, the family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Democracy Forward, donate@democracyforward.org, a national legal organization that advances democracy and social progress through litigation, policy and public education, and regulatory engagement, or the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, https://glenechopark.org/support, where Ron spent many joyful hours with his children and grandchildren attending art classes and exhibitions.

Ron Feldbaum will be remembered for his warmth, generosity, humor, and his boundless love and devotion to his family. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the principles he stood for, and the joy he brought to all who knew him.

Harriet Garden October 6, 1930–July 30, 2025. Harriet Garden (née Jonas), beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on July 30, 2025, at the age of 94. Born in Detroit on October 6, 1930, Harriet was the daughter of Eugene and Gizella Jonas and the sister of Raymond (Harold) Jonas and Milton Jonas. She met her future husband, Hershel (Harry) Garden, at the Jewish Community Center in Detroit, and their love story began when he took her to her senior prom. They married in 1952 and shared a joyful, devoted partnership that spanned more than six decades. Together, Harriet and Hershel raised three children — Jeffrey Garden (Helen), Denise Garden (Garry Turner), and Gail Daien (Michael) — with unwavering love and dedication. Harriet first worked as an executive assistant at Jam Handy before choosing to stay home to raise her children, a role she embraced with deep commitment. Later, she and Hershel built a family-run jewelry business at the concourse of Northland Mall, where Harriet's warmth and care became a hallmark of their success. Harriet was known for her generosity and intelligence. She had a sharp memory, a keen interest in politics and current events, and a deep love for her family. She was a loyal friend, a fabulous cook, and a woman of great compassion who gave selflessly to those she loved — especially in the devoted care she gave her husband in his final years. Harriet's greatest joy was her family. She was a proud and loving grandmother to Jason Garden (Jocelyn), Bradley Garden (Yitty), Zack Hyman (Carly), Eli Turner, and Danielle Turner, and a cherished great-grandmother to Joseph, Savannah, Noa, Harper, and Emma. She was also deeply loved by her many nieces and nephews, who brought her much happiness throughout her life. She will be remembered for her strength, kindness, and the enduring love she gave so freely. . ■

Simchas and Sorrows

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends condolences to the families of:

Richard Weber, husband of Madelon Weber. July 11, 2025.

Stuart Schwartz, husband of Darlene Schwartz, father of Debbie (John) Carbone, and grandfather to Jacob and Ben Carbone. July 23, 2025.

Ronald Feldbaum, father of Merle Feldbaum (Julio Borquez), and grandfather to Leah Borquez. July 26, 2025.

George Denes, husband of Shelly Denes and brother-in-law of June Swartz. August 10, 2025.

Harriet Garden, the mother of Denise Garden. July 30, 2025.

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends mazel tovs to:

Richard and Lesley Hume on the birth of their grandson Deckard Gray Murray-Hume on July 16, 2025. Proud parents are Michael Hume and Ashley Murray.

Terri Ginsburg and Jeffrey Spoon and Linda Jo Doctor and Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg on the birth of their granddaughter, Rosalie Bella (Shoshana Bracha), to parents Orli and Max and big brother Moshe.

Feature

Medal wins and lifelong friendships: JCC Maccabi Campus Games

By Drew Coel, Marketing and Program Associate, Ann Arbor JCC

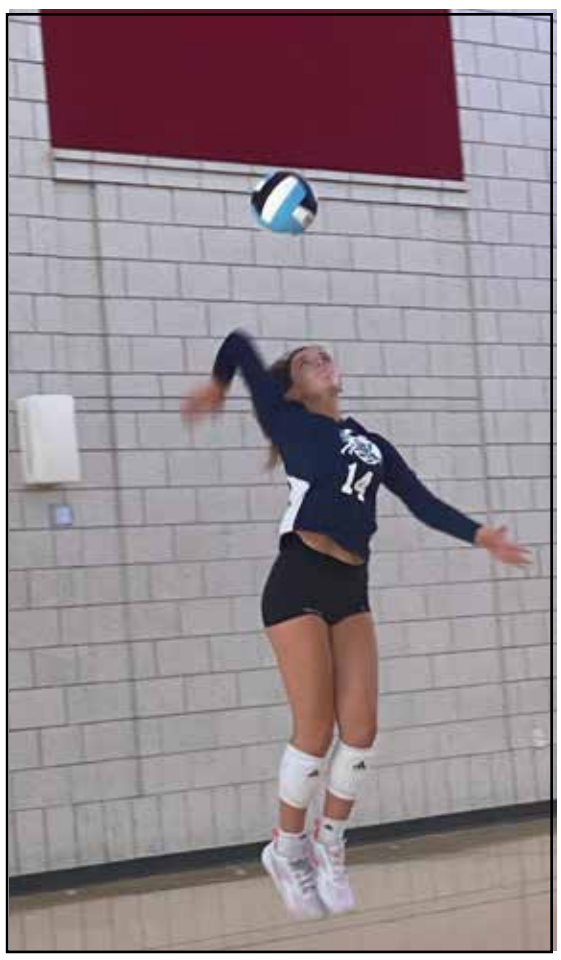
Last month, I had the amazing experience of serving as the Delegation Head of Team Ann Arbor-Nahalal for the 2025 JCC Maccabi Campus Games at the University of Pittsburgh, the first ever large-scale campus model for the games. JCC Maccabi is the premier engagement program for Jewish teens all over the world, and this year's games were one of the largest yet, with almost 2,000 athletes in attendance. This was my first year as a Delegation Head and my first year of involvement with JCC Maccabi. Our team consisted of 21 amazing, passionate, talented and fun-loving teenagers, 13 from Ann Arbor and eight from our sister city of Nahalal, Israel.

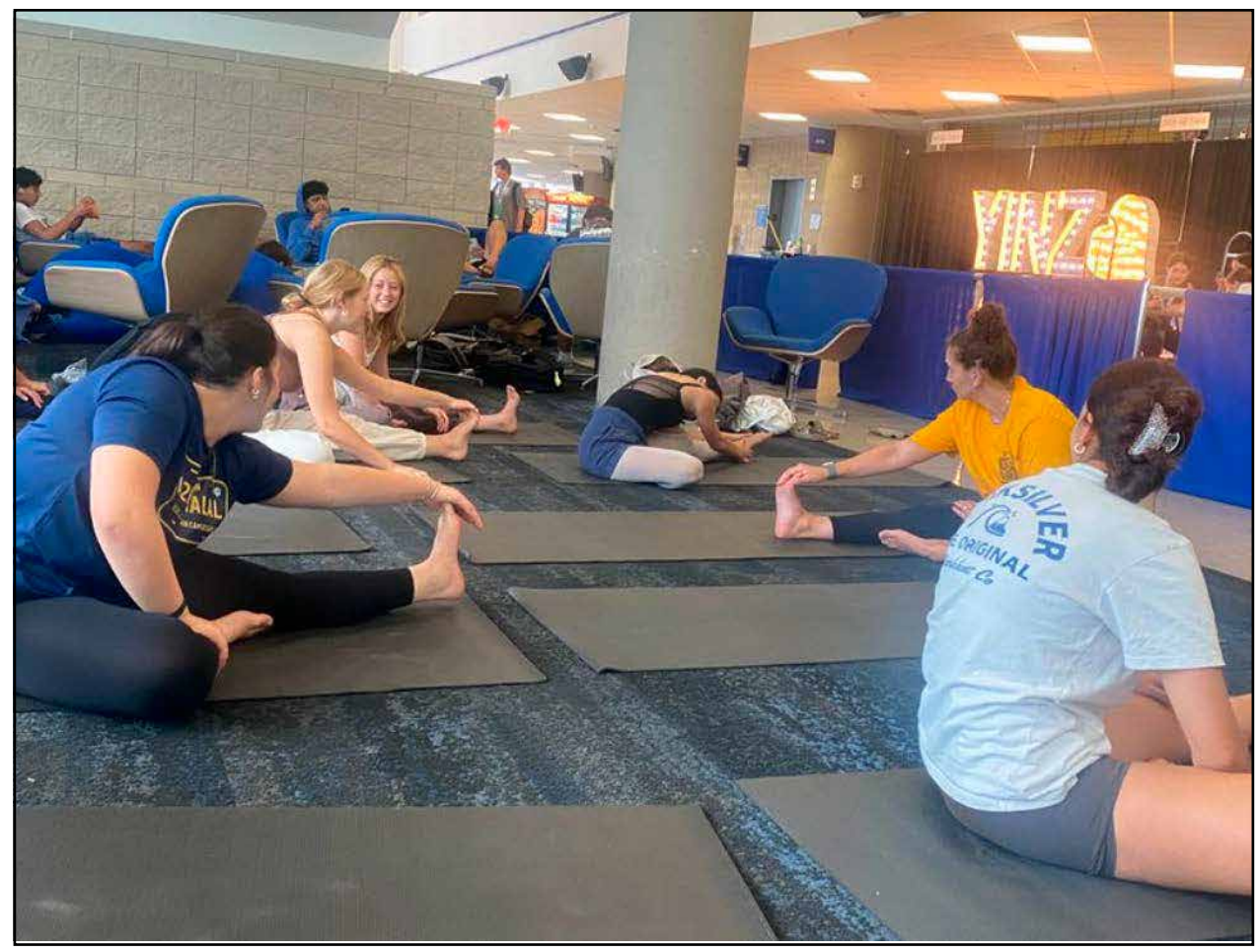
Upon meeting each other just before the games, our Ann Arbor and Nahalal teens very quickly forged friendships. Whereas teens normally stay with host families during the JCC Maccabi Games, the campus model of staying in dormitories at the University of Pittsburgh gave our teens a chance to spend even more time together. Throughout bus rides, sports competitions, Opening Ceremonies, a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game at PNC Park, College Night on the Pitt Campus, and the closing party, our Ann Arbor and Nahalal teens formed meaningful relationships while engaging deeply with their Jewish heritage.

The JCC Maccabi Games frequently combine athletes from different delegations to form full teams, which was the case for all of our team sport athletes this year. Team Ann Arbor-Nahalal athletes played on mixed teams with athletes from Detroit, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Kansas City, and even Orange County! Our teens got to meet so many other athletes from so many different places and embrace their Jewishness together through love of sports. In the end, our athletes on mixed teams took home the following medals: Bronze for 15U Baseball, Silver for 15U 3x3 Boys Basketball (with Ann Arbor Coach Noah Trobe leading them to victory!), Silver for 15U Girls Volleyball, and Gold for 17U Girls Volleyball.

Our individual sport athletes took home medals as well! Our track athlete won a collection of Bronze and Silver after several meets, our tennis player won Bronze for 15U Doubles. We are *so* proud of all of our athletes for their amazing performances throughout the week.

The 2026 JCC Maccabi Games will take place in Toronto, Canada, from August 2–7. If your 13–17 year old teen is interested in participating, please contact me at drewcoel@jccannarbor.org! ■





Photos by Ann Arbor Maccabi Star Reporter Lyla Cox

Community-Wide
October 7
Commemoration

Evening of
Thursday, October 16
This date corresponds to the national commemoration in Israel

Details at
JewishAnnArbor.org/Events

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for the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
MAIN EVENT

FEATURING
MITCH ALBOM

New York Times Bestselling Author, Philanthropist, Sports Reporter and Michigander

Author of numerous bestselling books of fiction and nonfiction, including "Tuesdays with Morrie"

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